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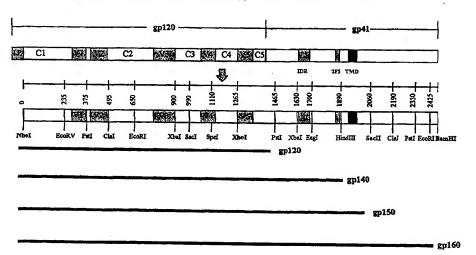
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(54) Title: METHOD FOR PRODUCING A NUCLEOTIDE CONSTRUCT WITH OPTIMISED CODONS FOR AN HIV GENETIC VACCINE BASED ON A PRIMARY, EARLY HIV ISOLATE AND SYNTHETIC ENVELOPE BX08 CONSTRUCTS

#### Synthetic BX08 Env Strategy for building the full-length gp160 and derived truncated forms



#### (57) Abstract

The present invention relates to a method for producing a nucleotide sequence construct with optimized codons for an HIV genetic vaccine based on a primary, early HIV isolate. Specific such nucleotide sequence construct are the synthetic envelope BX08 constructs. The invention further relates to the medical use of such constructs for the treatment and prophylaxis of HIV through DNA vaccine and for diagnostics.

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Method for producing a nucleotide sequence construct with optimised codons for an HIV genetic vaccine based on a primary, early HIV isolate and synthetic envelope BX08 constructs.

#### 5 Field of the invention

The invention relates to a DNA vaccine against HIV, which is designed from a clinical primary isolate. One aspect of the invention relates to a method of producing a nucleotide sequence construct, in a prefered aspect based on a cassette system, the nucleotide sequence construct being used as a DNA vaccine. The method can, for example, lead to the disclosed synthetic BX08 HIV-1 envelope vaccine nucleotide sequence construct, designed to generate suitable DNA vaccines against HIV, specifically HIV-1. Furthermore, the invention can be used for the production of recombinant protein antigens.

### Background of the invention

There is an urgent need for new vaccine strategies against HIV. One such new promising strategy is called genetic immunisation or DNA vaccine (Webster et al 1997). Some of the advantages of a DNA vaccine against HIV is the induction of Th cell activation, induction of antibodies also against conformational dependent epitopes, and the induction of cellular immunity. So far, most DNA vaccine envelope genes tried, have been from tissue culture adapted virus strains (Boyer et al 1997) that often differs in several aspects from primary clinical isolates (such as early isolates) e.g. in co-receptor usage (Choe et al 1996, Dragic et al 1997).

One disadvantage in HIV envelope based DNA vaccines may be the intrinsic relatively low
25 expression which is regulated by the Rev expression. This may prevent an optimal
investigation of the vaccines in small animal models like mice where Rev is functioning
suboptimally. Recently it has been shown using the tissue culture adapted HIV-1 MN strain,
that an exchange of the HIV codon usage to that of highly expressed mammalian genes
greatly improves the expression in mammalian cell lines and renders the HIV expression Rev
30 independent (Haas et al 1996). Additionally, it is known that rare codons cause pausing of
the ribosome, which leads to a failure in completing the nascent polypeptide chain and a
uncoupling of transcription and translation. Pausing of the ribosome is thought to lead to
exposure of the 3' end of the mRNA to cellular ribonucleases.

The world-wide spread of HIV-1 has presently resulted in 8,500 new infections daily and AIDS is now the number 1 cause of death among US males (and number 3 among US females) aged 25-40 years. The epidemic hot-spots now include Eastern Europe, India and 5 South East Asia and southern Africa. The attempts to solve this world-wide problem involve education, prevention, treatment and vaccine development. Affordable protective vaccines represent the best solution to the world-wide problem of infection with HIV-1. Induction of virus neutralising antibodies is one of the key components in vaccine development. Several recombinant envelope vaccines have been tested in humans and animals, however, they 10 seem unable to induce sufficient protection. In this respect DNA vaccination may provide a different and more natural mode of antigen presentation. It is hoped that the immune responses induced by such DNA vaccines could aid in limiting virus replication, slowing disease progression or preventing occurrence of disease. Unfortunately many HIV envelope vaccines induce only moderate levels of antibodies. This could in part be due to limitations in 15 expression, influenced by regulation by the Rev protein and by a species-specific and biased HIV codon usage. Also the virus variability is considered a barrier for development of antibody based vaccines and thus a tool for more easy producing of closely related vaccine variants is needed.

20 It has been suggested to improve the immunogenicity and antigenicity of epitopes by certain mutations in the envelope gene. An elimination of certain immune dominant epitopes (like V3) could render less immune dominant but more relevant, conserved, or hidden epitopes more immunogenic (Bryder et al 1999). Also elimination of certain N-linked glycosylation sites could improve the exposure of relevant epitopes and increase the immunogenicity of 25 those epitopes. Thus, it is possible that elimination of the glycosylation sites in V1 and V2 may in a more favourable way expose neutralising epitopes (Kwong et al 1998, Wyatt et al 1998). The HIV envelope contains putative internalisation sequences in the intracellular part of gp41 (Sauter et al 1996). Thus it would be relevant to eliminate and/or mutate the internalisation signals in a membrane bound HIV envelope vaccine gene to increase the 30 amount of surface exposed vaccine derived HIV glycoproteins as gp150. Since the antibody response, that is measured and calculated in titers, is improved by adding the secreted gp120 as opposed to adding the membrane bound form (Vinner et al 1999), it could be advantageous to express the vaccine as a secreted gp120 or a secreted gp140. This would include important parts of gp41, such as the 2F5 neutralising linear epitope (Mascola et al 35 1997).

#### **Summary of the invention**

Our suggested solution to the problems described above is to design DNA envelope vaccines from a clinical primary isolate with Rev-independent high expression in mammals, that is built as a cassette for easy variant vaccine production.

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A method of producing a nucleotide sequence construct with codons from highly expressed mammalian proteins based on a cassette system coding for an early, primary HIV envelope is described. The method comprises the steps of direct cloning of an HIV gene, derived from a patient within the first 12 months of infection, thereby obtaining a first nucleotide sequence; 10 designing a second nucleotide sequence utilising the most frequent codons from mammalian highly expressed proteins to encode the same amino acid sequence as the first nucleotide sequence; redesigning the second nucleotide sequence so that restriction enzyme sites surround the regions of the nucleotide sequence encoding functional regions of the amino acid sequence and so that selected restriction enzyme sites are removed, thereby obtaining 15 a third nucleotide sequence encoding the same amino acid sequence as the first and the second nucleotide sequence; redesigning the third nucleotide sequence so that the terminals contain convenient restriction enzyme sites for cloning into an expression vehicle; producing snuts between restriction enzyme sites as well as terminal snuts and introducing snuts into an expression vehicle by ligation. The nucleotide sequence construct obtained by this 20 method uses the mammalian highly expressed codons (figure 1) and renders the envelope gene expression Rev independent and allows easy cassette exchange of regions surrounded by restriction enzyme sites that are important for immunogenicity, function, and expression.

25 The method can, for example, lead to the disclosed synthetic, Rev-independent, clinical (such as early), primary HIV-1 envelope vaccine gene, built as a multi cassette. From the sequence of the envelope of the HIV-1 BX08 isolate (personal communication from Marc Girard, Institute Pasteur, Paris), the present inventors have designed a synthetic BX08 HIV-1 envelope vaccine nucleotide sequence construct.

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With the great diversity of envelopes in HIV among different patients and within one patient, it would be of advantage to vaccinate with several envelope variants, all being highly expressed. To avoid synthesising several full length envelopes, it is much easier to exchange relevant parts of an envelope cassette to various strains in a multivalent vaccine.

Whether it is the disclosed synthetic BX08 nucleotide sequence construct, or any of the nucleotide sequence constructs obtained by the method, they are designed to generate suitable DNA vaccines against HIV, specifically HIV-1. In this case the mammal, preferably a human being, is inoculated with the nucleotide sequence construct in an expression vehicle and constitutes a host for the transcription and translation of the nucleotide sequence construct. The nucleotide sequence constructs of the present invention can furthermore be used for the production of recombinant protein antigens. In this case the nucleotide sequence construct is placed in an expression vehicle and introduced into a system (e.g. a cell-line), allowing production of a recombinant protein with the same amino acid sequence.

The recombinant protein is then isolated and administered to the mammal, preferably a human being. The immune system of the mammal will then direct antibodies against epitopes on the recombinant protein. The mammal, preferably a human being, can thus be primed or boosted with DNA and/or recombinant protein obtained by the method of the

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invention.

A relevant HIV DNA vaccine can potentially be used not only as a prophylactic vaccine, but also as a therapeutic vaccine in HIV infected patients, e.g. during antiviral therapy. An HIV specific DNA vaccine will have the possibility to induce or re-induce the wanted specific immunity and help the antiviral therapy in limiting or even eliminating the HIV infection. The immunogenicity and antigenicity of epitopes in the envelope can be improved by certain mutations in the envelope gene. The cassette system allows for easy access to the relevant parts of the envelope gene, and thereby eased efforts in the process of genetic manipulation. Some suggested mutations are: an elimination of certain immune dominant epitopes (like V3); elimination of certain N-linked glycosylation sites (like glycosylation sites around V2); elimination and/or mutation of the nucleotide sequence encoding the internalisation signals in the cytoplasmic part of a membrane bound HIV envelope to increase the amount of surface exposed vaccine derived HIV glycoproteins; elimination or mutation of the cleavage site between gp120 and gp41; with introduced mutations in gp41 for preserving conformational epitopes.

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Table 1 below, lists the nucleotide sequence constructs of the invention by the names used herein, as well as by reference to relevant SEQ ID NOs of DNA sequences, and the amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA sequence in the preferred reading frame. It should be noted, that the snut name consist of the number of the approximate position for the end of the snut and the restriction enzyme used to cleave and/or ligate that end of the snut.

Table 1 List of names of nucleotide sequence constructs (Snuts (S) and Pieces (P)) with reference to SEQ ID NO for the nucleotide sequence and protein sequence.

Name	Nucleotide SEQ ID NO:	Protein SEQ ID NO:
S <sub>O-N-Lang</sub>	1	2
S <sub>235EcoRV</sub>	3	4
S <sub>375Pstl</sub>	5	6
S <sub>495Clal</sub>	7	8
S <sub>650-720EcoRI</sub>	9	10
S <sub>900Xbal</sub>	11	12
S <sub>990Sacl</sub>	13	14
S <sub>1110Spel</sub>	15	16
S <sub>1265Xhol</sub>	17	18
S <sub>1265gp120</sub>	19	20
S <sub>1265gp160</sub>	21	22
S <sub>1465PstI</sub>	23	24
S <sub>1465PstI cys</sub>	25	26
S <sub>1630Xbal</sub>	27	28
S <sub>1700Eagl</sub>	29	30
S <sub>1890HindIII</sub>	31	32
S	33	34
S <sub>2060</sub> Sacil	35	36
S <sub>2190Clal</sub>	37	38
S <sub>2330Pstl</sub>	39	40
S <sub>2425ES</sub> P <sub>1</sub>	41	42
P <sub>2</sub>	43	44
P <sub>3</sub>	45	46
P <sub>3GV1</sub>	47	48
7 3GV1	49	50
P <sub>3 GV1V2</sub>	51	52
P <sub>3GV2</sub>	53	54
P <sub>4gp160</sub>	55 55	56
P <sub>4gp150</sub>	57	58
P <sub>4gp140</sub>	57 59	60
P₅		62
P <sub>8gp160</sub>	61	
P <sub>8gp150</sub>	63	64 66
P <sub>8gp140</sub>	65 67	
synBX08-140	67	68
synBX08-150	69	70
synBX08-160	71	72
synBX08-120	73	74
synBX08-41	75	76

### **Detailed disclosure of the invention**

One aspect of the present invention relates to a method for producing a nucleotide sequence construct coding for an HIV gene. The nucleotide sequence construct is produced as a cassette system consisting of snuts. A snut (S) is a nucleotide sequences construct between restriction enzyme cleavage sites comprising the minimal entity of the cassette system.

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First an HIV gene is obtained from a patient within the first 12 months of infection. The term HIV should be understood in the broadest sense and include HIV 1 and HIV 2. It is possible to determine the period in which the infection has taken place with an accuracy depending 10 on the frequency of the blood tests taken from the patient. For example, patients suffering from various diseases such as lack of certain factors in their blood or hepatitis have their blood tested on a regular basis making it possible to determine the period in which the infection has taken place. Apart from patients with diseases wherein blood tests are used to monitor the course of the disease, other groups of patients have blood tests taken, e.g. blood 15 donors. Unfortunately, humans are still infected due to transfer of virus in blood samples, medical equipment, etc., making it possible to determine the date where the infection has taken place within the time frame of a few days. The importance of obtaining the virus early in the course of the infection is due to the known fact that many early isolates share the common feature of staying relatively constant in their envelope sequences (Karlsson et al., 20 1998). As these early isolates may share cross-reactive antibody- and/or T-cell epitopes a vaccine based on such early isolates would have a better chance of inducing immune response to shared epitopes of the virus. It is believed that an early, directly cloned virus isolate will share immunogenic sites with other early virus isolates seen during an HIV infection, so that if a mammal generates antibodies and/or T-cells directed against these 25 epitopes, the transferred virus will be eliminated prior to the extensive mutations that may occur after approximately 12 months of infection. Thus, the virus should be isolated as early as possible, that is within the first 12 months of infection, such as 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, or 0.5 month after infection.

30 The HIV gene for genetic vaccine is preferably cloned directly from viral RNA or from proviral DNA. Direct cloning in this application stands for the virus not being multiplied in stable cell lines *in vitro*. It is presently expected that passing the virus through a stable cell line will promote mutation in the virus gene. It is particularly preferred not to pass the virus through cells lines selecting for viruses with CXCR4 receptor usage. Direct cloning also includes multiplication of virus in e.g. PBMC (peripheral blood mononuclear cells) since all virus can

multiply in PBMC, and this type of multiplication generally does not select for CXCR4 receptor usage. Multiplication of virus is often necessary prior to cloning. Preferably cloning is performed directly on samples from the patient. In one embodiment of the invention, cloning is performed from patient serum. The cloning is then performed directly on the HIV virus, that is on RNA. In another embodiment of the invention cloning, is performed from infected cells. The cloning is then performed on HIV virus incorporated in the genes in an infected cell (e.g. a lymphocyte), that is on DNA. In the latter case the virus might be a silent virus, that is a non-replicating virus. To evaluate if the virus is silent, capability of multiplication in e.g. PBMC is tested.

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Cloning is a technique well known to a person skilled in the art. A first nucleotide sequence is hereby obtained. In another aspect of the invention, the first nucleotide sequence, sharing the properties mentioned with direct cloning, is obtained by other means. This could be from a database of primary isolates or the like.

Based on the first nucleotide sequence, the amino acid sequence encoded by said nucleotide sequence is determined. A second nucleotide sequence encoding the same amino acid sequence is then designed utilising the most frequent codons from highly expressed proteins in mammalians (e.g. figure 1 presenting the most frequent codons from highly expressed proteins in humans).

Presently, it appears that the usage of the most frequent codons from mammalian highly expressed proteins has two advantages: 1) the expression is Rev independent; 2) the level of expression is high. The Rev independence is especially advantageous when performing experiments in mice where the Rev systems is functioning sub-optimally. For the use in human vaccine, Rev independence and high expression are important to increase the amount of antigen produced. The determination of the codons for high expression is in this context based on the statistics from human highly expressed proteins (Haas, Park and Seed, 1996 hereby incorporated by reference). It is contemplated that the expression of a protein can be even higher, when current research in binding between codon (on the mRNA) and anticodon (on the tRNA) reveals codons with optimal binding capabilities, and when interactions in-between codons and/or in-between anticodons are known.

The second nucleotide sequence designed utilising optimised codons is then redesigned to obtain a third nucleotide sequence. The purpose of the redesigning is to create unique restriction enzyme sites around the nucleotide sequence encoding functional regions of the

amino acid sequence. By having unique restriction enzyme sites around the nucleotide sequence encoding functional regions of the amino acid sequence, the nucleotide sequence encoding functional regions of the amino acid sequence can easily be isolated, changed, and re-inserted. Examples of functional regions of the amino acid sequence are transmembrane spanning regions, immunodominant regions, regions with antibody cross reacting domains, fusion domains and other regions important for immunogenicity and expression such as variable region 1 (V1), variable region 2 (V2), variable region 3 (V3), variable region 4 (V4) and variable region 5 (V5).

- 10 It is important to select the restriction enzymes sites with care. By changing the second nucleotide sequence to insert restriction enzyme sites around the nucleotide sequence encoding functional regions of the amino acid sequence, the third nucleotide sequence must still code for the same amino acid sequence as the second and first nucleotide sequence do. Thus, if necessary, the second nucleotide sequence is redesigned by changing from optimised codons to less optimal codons. It is understood, that the restriction enzyme sites around the nucleotide sequence encoding functional regions of the amino acid sequence should preferably be placed in the terminal region of the nucleotide sequence encoding functional regions of the amino acid sequence. That is preferably outside the nucleotide sequence encoding functional regions of the amino acid sequence, such as 90 nucleotides away, e.g. 81, 72, 63, 54, 45, 36, 27, 21, 18, 15, 12, 9, 6,3 nucleotides away, but could also be inside the nucleotide sequence encoding functional regions of the amino acid sequence, such as 54, 45, 36, 27, 21, 18, 15, 12, 9, 6, 3 nucleotides inside the nucleotide sequence encoding the functional region of the amino acid sequence.
- 25 The type of restriction enzyme sites allowed is determined by the choice of expression vector. In certain cases, the number of restriction enzyme sites is limited and it is hard, if not impossible, to place unique restriction enzyme sites around all the nucleotide sequences coding for functional regions of the amino acid sequence. This problem can be solved by dividing the entire nucleotide sequence into pieces, so that each piece comprises only unique restriction enzyme sites. Modifications to each of the piece is performed separately prior to assembly of the pieces. It is preferred that the nucleotide sequence is divided into 9 pieces. In another aspect, the nuclotide sequence is divided into 8 pieces, or 7, or 6, or 5, or 4, or 3, or 2 pieces. It is especially preferred that the nucleotide sequence is divided into 3 pieces.

Thus, the redesign of the second nucleotide sequence is an interaction between the choice of cloning vector, expression vector, selection of restriction enzyme sites, dividing into pieces, and exchange of codons to insert restriction enzyme sites. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention the cloning vector is Bluescript allowing the restriction enzyme sites chosen from the group consisting of: *Eagl*, *Mlul*, *EcoRV*, *Pstl*, *Clal*, *EcoRI*, *Xbal*, *Sacl*, *Spel*, *Xhol*, *HindlII*, *SaclI*, *Notl*, *BamHI*, *Smal*, *Sall*, *Dral*, *Kpnl*. If other cloning vectors are chosen, other restriction enzyme sites will be available as known by the person skilled in the art.

As a part of the redesigning of the second nucleotide sequence, selected restriction enzyme sites may be removed. The selected restriction enzyme sites to be removed are those sites that are sites of the same type as the ones already chosen above and that are placed within the same piece. The removal of these restriction enzyme sites is performed by changing from optimised codons to less optimal codons, maintaining codons for the same amino acid sequence.

The third nucleotide sequence is redesigned so that the terminal snuts contain convenient restriction enzyme sites for cloning into an expression vehicle. The expression "vehicle" means any nucleotide molecule e.g. a DNA molecule, derived e.g. from a plasmid,

20 bacteriophage, or mammalian or insect virus, into which fragments of nucleic acid may be inserted or cloned. An expression vehicle will contain one or more unique restriction enzyme sites and may be capable of autonomous replication in a defined host or vehicle organism such that the cloned sequence is produced. The expression vehicle is an autonomous element capable of directing the synthesis of a protein. Examples of expression vehicles are mammalian plasmids and viruses, tag containing vectors and viral vectors such as adenovirus, vaccinia ankara, adenoassociated virus, cannarypox virus, simliki forest virus (sfv), Modified Vaccinia Virus Ankara (MVA), and simbis virus. In one embodiment of the invention, the expression vector contains tag sequences. In another embodiment of the invention a bacteria is transformed with an expression plasmid vector and the bacteria is then delivered to the patient. Preferred expression vehicles are simliki forest virus (sfv), adenovirus and Modified Vaccinia Virus Ankara (MVA).

The snuts are produced by techniques well known by the person skilled in the art. The preferred method for synthesising snuts, is herein referred to as "the minigene approach"

35 wherein complementary nucleotide strands are synthesised with specific overhanging sequences for annealing and subsequent ligation into a vector. This can be performed with

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two sets of complementary nucleotide strands, or with three sets of complementary nucleotide strands. The minigene approach minimises the known PCR errors of mismatches and/or deletions, which may occur due to hairpins in a GC rich gene with mammalian highly expressed codons. In figures 10-21, the production of a representative selection of snuts is illustrated.

For the production of long snuts, that is snuts of more than about 240 nucleotides, the technique of overlapping PCR is preferred as illustrated in figure 8. Herein two nucleotide strands about 130 nucleotides long with an overlap are filled to obtain a double strand, which is subsequently amplified by PCR.

For the production of multiple snuts with a length of less than about 210 nucleotides, one preferred technique is normal PCR. In a preferred production technique the snuts are synthesised with the same 5' flanking sequences and with the same 3' flanking sequences, as illustrated in figure 9. The advantages of this approach is, that the same PCR primer set can be used for amplification of several different snuts.

As known by the person skilled in the art, special conditions have to be used for each individual PCR reaction and it should be optimised to avoid inherent problems like deletions 20 mismatches when amplificating GC rich genes from synthetic ssDNA material. Whichever of the above mentioned techniques are used, it is well known by the person skilled in the art, that it will be necessary to correct unavoidable mismatches produced either due to the nucleotide strand synthesis material and/or the PCR reaction. This can be performed by site directed mutagenesis techniques.

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After the various snuts have been produced, they are assembled into pieces and subsequently into the complete gene. Methods for assembly (such as ligation) are well known by the person skilled in the art.

- In a preferred embodiment of the present invention the HIV gene encodes the entire HIV envelope. It is understood that the HIV envelope can be the full length envelope gp160 as well as shorter versions such as gp150, gp140, and gp120 with or without parts of gp41.
- 35 As will be known by the person skilled in the art, the HIV is divided into several groups.

  These groups presently include group M, group O, and group N. Further, the HIV is divided

into subtypes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and J. In the present invention subtype B is preferred due to the high prevalence of this subtype in the Western countries.

- The determination of groups and subtypes is based on the degree of nucleotide sequence identity in the envelope gene is presently defined as follows: If the sequence identity is more than 90% the viruses belong to the same subtype; If the sequence identity is between 80% and 90% the viruses belong to the same group. If the sequence identity is less than 80% the viruses are considered as belonging to different groups.
- 10 One aspect of the invention relates to a nucleotide sequence construct in isolated form which has a nucleotide sequence with the general formula (I), (II), or (IV)
  - (I)  $P_1$ - $S_{495Clal}$ - $S_{650-720EcoRl}$ - $P_2$ - $S_{1265qp120}$
  - (II) P<sub>1</sub>-S<sub>495Clai</sub>-S<sub>650-720EcoRi</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>1265Xhoi</sub>-S<sub>1465Psti</sub>-P<sub>4gp140</sub>
  - (III) P<sub>1</sub>-S<sub>495Clal</sub>-S<sub>650-720EcoRl</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>1265Xhol</sub>-S<sub>1465Pstl</sub>-P<sub>4gp150</sub>
- 15 (IV) P<sub>1</sub>-S<sub>495Clal</sub>-S<sub>650-720EcoRl</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>1265Xhol</sub>- S<sub>1465Pstl</sub>- P<sub>4gp160</sub>- S<sub>2060Sacll</sub>- P<sub>5</sub> wherein P<sub>1</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:41, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 90% thereto;
- wherein S<sub>495Clal</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 7, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 95% thereto;
  - wherein  $S_{650-720EcoRl}$  designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 9, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 95% thereto;
- wherein P<sub>2</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 43, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 85% thereto;
- wherein S<sub>1265gp120</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 19, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at 30 least 70% thereto;
  - wherein S<sub>1265Xhol</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 17, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 80% thereto;
- wherein S<sub>1465Pstl</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 23, a nucleotide sequence 35 complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 90% thereto;

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wherein  $P_{4gp140}$  designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 57, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 85% thereto;

wherein P<sub>4gp150</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 55, a nucleotide sequence 5 complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 85% thereto;

wherein P<sub>4gp160</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 53, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 85% thereto:

10 wherein S<sub>2060SacII</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 33, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 98% thereto; and wherein P<sub>5</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 59, a nucleotide sequence

complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 85%

15 thereto.

The design of the parent synthetic BX08 gp160 envelope cassette gene with its variant length genes gp150, gp140, gp120 is outlined in figure 2.

20 The nucleotide sequence construct with the formula (I)

(I) P<sub>1</sub>-S<sub>495Clal</sub>-S<sub>650-720EcoRl</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>1265gp120</sub>
 (visualised in figure 3) (SEQ ID NO: 73) codes for the amino acid sequence of gp120 (SEQ ID NO: 74). This amino acid sequence is the part of the HIV envelope that is secreted. Thus, it contains the immunogenic epitopes without being bound to the cell membrane. This is of particular advantage if the nucleotide sequence construct is used for production of recombinant antigens or for a DNA vaccine as the antibody immune response may be higher to secreted versus membrane bound HIV antigens.

The nucleotide sequence construct with the formula (II)

30 (II) P<sub>1</sub>-S<sub>495Clal</sub>-S<sub>650-720EcoRl</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>1265Xhol</sub>- S<sub>1465Pstl</sub>- P<sub>4gp140</sub> (visualised in figure 4) (SEQ ID NO: 67) codes for the amino acid sequence of gp140 (SEQ ID NO: 68). This amino acid sequence encodes the gp120 and the extracellular part of the gp41 protein. The amino acid sequence is secreted due to the lack of the transmembrane spanning region. This is of particular advantage if the nucleotide sequence construct is used for production of recombinant antigens as the immunogenic and/or antigenic epitopes in the extracellular part of gp41 are included and is of particular advantage for a DNA vaccine as

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the antibody immune response may be higher to secreted gp120 versus membrane bound HIV antigens.

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The nucleotide sequence construct with the formula (III)

5 (III) P<sub>1</sub>-S<sub>495Clal</sub>-S<sub>650-720EcoRl</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>1265Xhol</sub>- S<sub>1465Pstl</sub>- P<sub>4gp150</sub> (visualised in figure 5) (SEQ ID NO: 69) codes for the amino acid sequence of gp150 (SEQ ID NO: 70). This amino acid sequence contains all of the envelope protein gp160 except the c-terminal tyrosin containing internalisation signals in the intracellular part of gp41. The membrane bound surface expression of the amino acid sequence is thereby maintained and enhanced. Mimicking the organisation of the native epitope conformation may by expected, making this nucleotide sequence construct of particular advantage if the nucleotide sequence construct is used as a vaccine.

The nucleotide sequence construct with the formula (IV)

15 (IV) P<sub>1</sub>-S<sub>495Clal</sub>-S<sub>650-720EcoRI</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>1265Xhol</sub>- S<sub>1465Pstl</sub>- P<sub>4gp160</sub>- S<sub>2060SacII</sub>- P<sub>5</sub> (visualised in figure 6) (SEQ ID NO: 71) codes for the amino acid sequence of gp160 (SEQ ID NO: 72) i.e. the entire envelope.

The nucleotide sequence construct designated P<sub>1</sub> comprises the nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence in the first variable region (V1) and the amino acid sequence in the second variable region (V2). In one embodiment of the invention the first variable region is surrounded by EcoRV and PstI restriction enzyme sites, and the second variable region is surrounded by PstI and ClaI restriction enzyme sites but as stated above, the choice of restriction enzyme sites can alter.

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The nucleotide sequence construct designated  $S_{650-720EcoRI}$  comprises the nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence in the third variable region (V3). In one embodiment of the present invention  $S_{650-720EcoRI}$  is characterised by the restriction enzyme sites EcoRI and XbaI in the terminals.

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The nucleotide sequence construct designated  $P_2$  comprises the nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the fourth variable and constant region (V4 and C4). In one embodiment of the present invention the forth variable region is surrounded by SacI and XhoI restriction enzyme sites.

The nucleotide sequence construct designated  $S_{1265gp120}$  comprises the nucleotide sequence encoding amino acid sequence of the fifth variable and constant region (V5 and C5).  $S_{1265gp120}$  further comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a C-terminal stop codon.

- The nucleotide sequence construct designated P<sub>4gp140</sub> comprises the nucleotide sequence encoding amino acid sequence of the transmembrane spanning region. P<sub>4gp140</sub> further comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a C-terminal stop codon prior to the transmembrane spanning region.
- 10 The nucleotide sequence construct designated P<sub>4gp160</sub> comprises the nucleotide sequence encoding amino acid sequence of the transmembrane spanning region (trans membrane spanning domain: TMD). In a preferred embodiment of the present invention the transmembrane spanning region is surrounded by HindIII and SacII restriction enzyme sites.
- 15 The term "sequence identity" indicates the degree of identity between two amino acid sequences or between two nucleotide sequences calculated by the Wilbur-Lipman alignment method (Wilbur et al, 1983).
- The nucleotide sequence constructs with the formula (I), (II), or (IV) illustrates the
  20 flexibility in the present invention. By producing a gene with the described method enables
  the production of a plethora of antigens with various immunogenic epitopes and various
  advantages for production and vaccine purposes. To further illustrate the flexibility of the
  invention, other changes and mutations are suggested below.
- In order to improve the immunogenicity of the nucleotide sequence constructs of the invention it is suggested to change the nucleotide sequence such that one or more glycosylation sites are removed in the amino acid sequence. By removal of shielding glycosylations, epitopes are revealed to the immunesystem of the mammal rendering the construct more immunogenic. The increased immunogenicity can be determined by an improved virus neutralisation. Changes in the nucleotide sequence such that one or more N-linked glycosylation sites are removed in the amino acid sequence is well known by the person skilled in the art. Potential glycosylation sites are N in the amino acid sequences N-X-T or N-X-S (wherein X is any amino acid besides P). The glycosylation site can be removed by changing N to any amino acid, changing X to a P, or changing T to any amino acid. It is preferred that N is changed to Q by an A to C mutation at the first nucleotide in the codon, and a C to G mutation at the third nucleotide in the codon. This is preferred to increase the

GC content in the nucleotide sequence construct. As an alternative N is changed to Q by an A to C mutation at the first nucleotide in the codon, and a C to A mutation at the third nucleotide in the codon. Preferred mutations in the synthetic BX08 envelope gene to remove potential N-linked glycosylation sites in V1 and/or V2 are A307C + C309A and/or A325C + C327G and/or A340C + C342A and/or A385C + C387A and/or A469C + C471A. Examples of such changes is illustrated in SEQ ID NOs: 47, 49, and 51.

For historical reasons the HIVs have been divided into syncytia inducing strains and non syncytia inducing strains. The assay to determine whether a strain is syncytia inducing is described in Verrier et al 1997, hereby incorporated by reference. It is presently known, that viruses utilising the CXCR4 co-receptor are syncytia inducing strains. It is also, at the present, known that the binding site for the CXCR4 involves the third variable region (V3). In a preferred embodiment the nucleotide sequence construct is changed to create a binding site for the CXCR4 co-receptor. It is presently performed in the third variable regions, preferably by the mutation G865C + A866G.

It is well established that the HIV envelope comprises immunodominant epitopes. An immunodominant epitope is an epitope that most antibodies from the mammal are directed against. The antibodies directed against these immunodominant epitopes may have little effect in elimination of the virus. It is therefore anticipated that modification of the immunodominant epitopes will induce antibodies directed against other parts of the envelope leading to a better elimination and neutralisation of the virus. By modification is understood any change in the nucleotide sequence encoding an immunodominant epitope in the amino acid sequence such that said amino acid sequence no longer contains an immunodominant epitope. Thus, modification includes removal of the immunodominant epitope and decrease of immunogenicity performed by mutagenesis. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention an immunodominant epitope in the third variable region (V3) is modified, such as deleted or altered. In a much preferred embodiment the nucleotides 793-897 are deleted. In yet another preferred embodiment of the present invention an immunodominant epitope has been removed from gp41, such as deleted. This is performed in P<sub>7</sub> or P<sub>8</sub> by elimination of the nucleotides 1654-1710.

It is anticipated that when gp120 is dissociated from gp41 in a vaccine or antigen, two immunodominant epitopes, one on each protein, are exposed and antibodies are directed against these in the mammal. In the infectious virus, gp120 is coiled on top of gp41 and the gp120/gp41 is most likely organised in a trimer, so that these immunodominant epitopes are

hidden and therefore less elimination of virus is observed. By removing the cleavage site between gp41 and gp120 a full length gp160, gp150, or gp140 can be obtained with a covalent binding between gp41 and gp120. Removal of the cleavage site between gp41 and gp120 is preferably performed by a mutation at position C1423A. An example of such a mutation is illustrated in the mutation of S<sub>1265Xhol</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 17) to S<sub>1265gp160</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 21).

In order to stabilise the full length gp160, gp150, and gp140 for example when the cleavage site between gp41 and gp120 has been removed as described above, cysteins can be inserted, preferably inside the gp41 helix creating disulphide bounds to stabilise a trimer of gp41s. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention the cysteins are inserted by the mutation 1618:CTCCAGGC:1625 to 1618:TGCTGCGG:1625. An example of such a change is illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 25.

15 The above mentioned decrease in immunodominant epitopes combined with the increase in immunogenicity of the other epitopes is expected to greatly enhance the efficacy of the nucleotide sequence construct as a vaccine.

During the production of the nucleotide sequence construct, it is convenient to ligate the snuts into pieces. The pieces, as described above, are characterised by their reversible assembly as there are no duplicate restriction enzyme sites. In a preferred embodiment one piece (herein designated P<sub>3</sub>) contains P<sub>1</sub>, S<sub>495Clal</sub>, S<sub>650-720EcoRl</sub>, and P<sub>2</sub>. Another piece (herein designated P<sub>8</sub>) contains S<sub>1265Xhol</sub>, S<sub>1465Pstl</sub>, and P<sub>4gp160</sub>. Yet another piece (herein designated P<sub>7</sub>) contains S<sub>1265Xhol</sub>, S<sub>1465Pstl</sub>, P<sub>4gp160</sub>, S<sub>2060Sacll</sub>, and P<sub>5</sub>.

- One advantage of the present nucleotide sequence construct is the easy access to exchange and alterations in the content and function of the nucleotide sequence and the encoded amino acid sequence. In one embodiment the nucleotide sequence coding for a functional region or parts thereof of the amino acid sequence is repeated. The repeat could be back-to-back or a functional region or parts thereof could be repeated somewhere else in the sequence. Repeated could mean two (one repetition) but could also be three, six, or nine repeats. In a much preferred embodiment the repetition nucleotide sequence codes for amino acids in the third variable region.
- 35 In order to improve the protective capabilities of the invention against infections with HIV, one embodiment of the invention relates to the combination of epitopes. The present

nucleotide sequence construct allows insertion of one or more new nucleotide sequences isolated from another group and/or subtype of HIV and/or isolated from another patient. Hereby a vaccine or antigen with two or more epitopes from two or more HIVs is obtained. In a preferred embodiment, the V3 is replaced by the new nucleotide sequence. In a much preferred embodiment, the new nucleotide sequence codes for amino acids in the third variable region of a different HIV isolate.

In order to improve the efficacy of the vaccine, aiming at raising cellular immunity, a nucleotide sequence coding for a T-helper cell epitope is included in the nucleotide sequence construct. The nucleotide sequence coding for a T-helper cell epitope or a T-helper cell epitope containing amino acid sequence can be put in anywhere in the nucleotide sequence construct as long as it does not interact with the function of the envelope molecule. However, it is preferably placed in the tail of the nucleotide sequence construct or between the leader sequence and the envelope gene. The T-helper epitopes are preferably selected from core proteins such as P24gag or from a non-HIV pathogen such as virus, bacteria, e.g. BCG antigen 85. For a therapeutic vaccine an HIV helper epitope is preferred since the patient is already primed by the HIV infection. For a prophylactic vaccine, a T-helper cell epitope from a frequently occurring non HIV pathogen such as Hepatitis B, BCG, CMV, EBV is preferred. Also, since the synthetic BX08 envelope genes may contain T-helper cell epitopes in addition to important antibody epitopes, the synthetic BX08 vaccine genes can be mixed with other DNA vaccines to improve the efficacy of the other DNA vaccine.

One aspect of the present invention relates to individualised immunotherapy, wherein the virus from a newly diagnosed patient is directly cloned, the envelope or subunits

25 corresponding to snuts or pieces is produced with highly expressed codons, inserted into any of the nucleotide sequence constructs described above and administered to the patient as a vaccine. Hereby a therapeutic DNA vaccine is obtained, that will help the patient to break immunetolerance or induce/reinduce an appropriate immune response. In one embodiment the variable regions of the virus are produced with highly expressed codons and exchanged into any of the nucleotide sequence constructs described above.

In one embodiment of the invention, the nucleotide sequence construct as described above satisfies at least one of the following criteria:

a) serum extracted from a Macaque primate which has been immunised by administration of
 an expression vector containing the nucleotide sequence construct is capable of eliminating
 SHIV as determined by quantitative PCR and/or virus culturing.

- b) serum extracted from a primate which has been immunised by administration of an expression vector containing the nucleotide sequence construct is capable of neutralising HIV-1 BX08 and /or other HIV-1 strains *in vitro*.
- c) serum, extracted from a mouse which has been immunised by administration of an expression vector containing the nucleotide sequence construct four times in intervals of three weeks and boosted after 15 weeks, is capable of decreasing the concentration of HIV-antigen in a culture of HIV, serum or PBMCs by at least 50%. An example of such procudure is shown in example 9.
- 10 In one embodiment of the invention, the nucleotide sequence construct of the invention, is used in medicine. That is, it is used as a vaccine, for the production of a recombinant protein, such that the recombinant protein is used as a vaccine, or the nucleotide sequence construct or the recombinant protein is used in a diagnostic composition.

Thus, the nucleotide sequence construct of the invention can be used for the manufacture of a vaccine for the prophylactics of infection with HIV in humans.

Intramuscular inoculation of nucleotide constructs, i.e. DNA plasmids encoding proteins have been shown to result in the generation of the encoded protein in situ in muscle cells and dendritic cells. By using cDNA plasmids encoding viral proteins, both antibody and CTL responses were generated, providing homologous and heterologous protection against subsequent challenge with either the homologous or cross-strain reaction, respectively. The standard techniques of molecular biology for preparing and purifying DNA constructs enable the preparation of the DNA therapeutics of this invention. While standard techniques of molecular biology are therefore sufficient for the production of the products of this invention, the specific constructs disclosed herein provide novel therapeutics which can produce cross-strain protection, a result heretofore unattainable with standard inactivated whole virus or subunit protein vaccines.

The amount of expressible DNA to be introduced to a vaccine recipient will depend on the strength of the transcription and translation promoters used in the DNA construct, and on the immunogenicity of the expressed gene product. In general, an immunologically or prophylactically effective dose of about 10 µg to 300 µg is administered directly into muscle tissue. Subcutaneous injection, intradermal introduction, impression through the skin, inoculation by gene gun preferably DNA coated gold particles, and other modes of administration such as intraperitoneal, intravenous, peroral, topic, vaginal, rectal, intranasal or by inhalation delivery are also contemplated. It is also contemplated that booster

vaccinations are to be provided. It is further contemplated that booster vaccinations with recombinant antigens are to be provided, administered as described above.

The DNA may be naked, that is, unassociated with any proteins, adjuvants or other agents which impact on the recipients immune system. In this case, it is desirable for the DNA to be in a physiologically acceptable solution, such as, but not limited to, sterile saline or sterile buffered saline. Alternatively, the DNA may be associated with surfactants, liposomes, such as lecithin liposomes or other liposomes, such as ISCOMs, known in the art, as a DNA-liposome mixture, (see for example WO93/24640) or the DNA may be associated with and adjuvant known in the art to boost immune responses, such as a protein or other carrier. Agents which assist in the cellular uptake of DNA, such as, but not limited to, calcium ions, detergents, viral proteins and other transfection facilitating agents may also be used to advantage. These agents are generally referred to as transfection facilitating agents and as pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

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Those skilled in the field of molecular biology will understand that any of a wide variety of expression systems may be used. A wide range of suitable mammalian cells are available from a wide range of sources (e.g. the American Type Culture Collection, Rockland, Dm; also, see e.g. Ausubel et al. 1992). The method of transformation or transfection and the choice of expression vehicle will depend on the host system selected. Transformation and transfection methods are described e.g. in Ausubel et al 1992; expression vehicles may be chosen from those provided e.g. in P.H. Pouwels et al. 1985.

In one embodiment of the present invention the protein encoded by the nucleotide sequence construct is produced by introduction into a suitable mammalian cell to create a stably-transfected mammalian cell line capable of producing the recombinant protein. A number of vectors suitable for stable transfection of mammalian cells are available to the public e.g. in *Cloning Vectors*: A Laboratory manual (P.H. Pouwels et al. 1985); methods for constructing such cell lines are also publicly available, e.g. in Ausubel et al. 1992.

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Standard reference works describing the general principles of recombinant DNA technology include Watson, J.D. et al 1987; Darnell, J.E. et al 1986; Old, R.W. et al, 1981; Maniatis, T. et al 1989; and Ausubel et al. 1992.

### Figure legends

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The invention is further illustrated in the following non-limiting examples and the drawing wherein

5 Figure 1 provides the codon preference of highly expressed proteins in human cells.

Figure 2 illustrates the outline of gp120, gp140, gp150, and gp160 encoding synthetic genes derived from the wild type sequence at the top. Variable (V) and constant (C) regions are shown together with the leader peptide (LP) and the transmembrane spanning domain (TMD). The approximate nucleotide positions of the restriction enzyme sites are shown. The approximate position of the three restriction enzyme sites dividing the full-length gp160 gene into the three pieces each containing only unique restriction enzyme sites are shown in bold.

15 Figure 3 building of the synthetic gp120 gene. Variable (V) and constant (C) regions are shown together with the leader peptide (LP) and the transmembrane spanning domain ( TMD). The approximate nucleotide positions of the restriction enzyme sites are shown.

Figure 4 building of the synthetic gp140 gene. Variable (V) and constant (C) regions are shown together with the leader peptide (LP) and the transmembrane spanning domain (TMD). The approximate nucleotide positions of the restriction enzyme sites are shown.

Figure 5 building of the synthetic gp150 gene. Variable (V) and constant (C) regions are shown together with the leader peptide (LP) and the transmembrane spanning domain (TMD). The approximate nucleotide positions of the restriction enzyme sites are shown.

Figure 6 building of the synthetic gp160 gene. Variable (V) and constant (C) regions are shown together with the leader peptide (LP) and the transmembrane spanning domain (TMD). The approximate nucleotide positions of the restriction enzyme sites are shown.

Figure 7 illustrates the codons coding amino acids in general

Figure 8 illustrates how overlapping PCR is performed.

35 Figure 9 illustrates how PCR using conserved flanking ends is performed.

Figure 10 illustrates how S<sub>1265Xhol</sub> is produced using complementary strands (minigene-approach) technology. The S<sub>1265Xhol</sub> is ligated from three sets of complementary strands into the vector pBluescript KS<sup>+</sup> between restriction enzyme sites *Xhol* and *Pstl*.

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- Figure 11 illustrates how  $S_{1465Pstl}$  is produced. The same approach, as the approach used for the production of  $S_{1265Xhol}$ , was used except that only two sets of complementary strands were used.
- 10 Figure 12 illustrates the assembly of P<sub>1</sub>. The S<sub>O-N-Lang</sub> and S<sub>235EcoRV</sub> are ligated into the Xbal and Pstl site of the S<sub>375Pstl</sub> containing plasmid.
- Figure 13 illustrates the assembly of P<sub>2</sub>. The S<sub>900Xbal</sub> was excerted by *Hind*III and *Sac*I from its plasmid and ligated with S<sub>990SacI</sub> (*Sac*I-*Spe*I) into the S<sub>110Spal</sub> plasmid that was opened at the *Hind*III and *Spe*I sites.
  - Figure 14 illustrates the assembly of  $P_3$ .  $S_{495Clal}$  (*Clal-EcoRI*) and  $S_{650-720EcoRI}$  (*EcoRI-XbaI*) and  $P_2$  (*XbaI-XhoI*) were ligated simultaneously into the  $P_1$  plasmid opened at the *Clal* and *XhoI* sites to obtain the  $P_3$  plasmid.
  - Figure 15 illustrates the assembly of  $P_{4gp160}$ .  $S_{1890HindIII}$  (SacI-HindIII) and  $S_{1700eagl}$  (HindIII-Eagl) were ligated simultaneously into the  $S_{1630Xhal}$  plasmid opened by SacII and Eagl.
- Figure 16 illustrates the assembly of P<sub>5</sub>. S<sub>2190Clal</sub> (*Clal-Pst*I) and S<sub>2330PstI</sub> (*PstI-Eco*RI) were ligated into the S<sub>2425Es</sub> plasmid opened by *Clal* and *Eco*RI.
  - Figure 17 illustrates the assembly of  $P_{8gp160}$ .  $S_{1465Pstl}$  (Xbal-Pstl) and  $S_{1265Xhol}$  (Pstl-Xhol) were ligated into the  $P_{4gp160}$  plasmid opened by Xbal and Xhol.
- 30 Figure 18 illustrates the assembly of P<sub>8gp150</sub>. S<sub>1465Pstl</sub> (Xbal-Pstl) and S<sub>1265Xhol</sub> (Pstl-Xhol) were ligated into the plasmid containing P<sub>4gp150</sub> with the stop codon. P<sub>4gp150</sub> plasmid was opened at the Xbal and Xhol sites for the ligation.
- Figure 19 illustrates the assembly of P<sub>8gp140</sub>. S<sub>1465Pstl</sub> (*Xbal-Pst*l) and S<sub>1265Xhol</sub> (*Pstl-Xhol*) were ligated into the plasmid containing P<sub>4gp140</sub> with a stop codon. P<sub>4gp140</sub> plasmid was opened at the *Xbal* and *Xhol* sites for the ligation.

- Figure 20 illustrates the assembly of P<sub>8gp41</sub>. Two complementary nucleotide strands 1265gp41S and 1265gp41AS designed with overhang creating a 5' *Xho*I and a 3' *Pst*I restriction enzyme site were anealed and ligated into the piece 8 which is already opened at the *Xho*I and *Pst*I sites whereby S<sub>1265</sub> is deleted.
- Figure 21 illustrates the assembly of  $P_7$ .  $P_8$  (*Xhol-SacII*) and  $S_{2060SacII}$  (*SacII-ClaI*) were ligated into  $P_5$  plasmid opened at *XhoI* and *ClaI*.
- Figure 22a SDS PAGE of <sup>35</sup>S-labelled HIV-1 BX08 envelope glycoproteins radio-immuno precipitated from transiently transfected 293 cells using the indicated plasmids. Cell pellet (membrane bound antigens) or cell supernatant (secreted antigens) were precipitated by a polyclonal anti-HIV-1 antibody pool. Lane 1: untransfected cells. Lane 2: supernatant from syn.gp120<sub>MN</sub> transfected cells. Lane 3: cell pellet from wt.gp160<sub>BX08</sub> transfected cells.
   Lane 4: cell pellet from cells co-transfected by wt.gp160<sub>BX08</sub> and pRev. Lane 5: Mwt. marker. Lane 6: cell pellet from syn.gp160<sub>BX08</sub> transfected 293 cells. Lane 7: cell pellet from syn.gp150<sub>BX08</sub> transfected 293 cells. Lane 8: supernatant from syn.gp140<sub>BX08</sub> transfected cells.
- Figure 22b is an SDS-PAGE of <sup>35</sup>S-labeled HIV-1 BX08 envelope glycoproteins radio-immune precipitated from transiently transfected 293 cells as cell pellet (membrane bound) or cell supernatant (secreted antigens) by anti-HIV-1 antibody pool using the indicated plasmids. Lane 1: untransfected 293 cells. Lane 2: cell pellet from syn.gp160MN transfected 293 cells as positive control (Vinner et al 1999). Lane 3: Cell supernatant from syn.gp120MN transfected 293 cells as positive control (Vinner et al 1999). Lane 4: Cell supernatant from syn.gp120BX08 transfected 293 cells demonstrating a glycoprotein band of 120 kDa. Lane 5: Cell supernatant from syn.gp140BX08 transfected 293 cells demonstrating a glycoprotein band of 120 kDa. Lane 6: Mwt. marker. Lane7 at two different exposure times: Cell pellet from syn.gp150BX08 transfected 293 cells
   demonstrating a glycoprotein band of 120 kDa (lower gp30 band is not well seen in this exposure). Lane 8: Cell supernatant from syn.gp150BX08 transfected 293 cells showing no secreted proteins (all protein is membrane bound, see lane 7).
- Figure 22c show fluorescent microscopy of U87.CD4.CCR5 cells transfected with BX08 gp160 genes plus pGFP. Panel A: cells transfected with empty WRG7079 vector plus pGFP showing no syncytia. Panel B: cells transfected with wild type BX08gp160 gene

plus pGFP showing some syncytia. Panel C: cells transfected with synBX08gp160 plus pGFP showing extreeme degree of syncytia formation. This demonstrates expression, functionality, and tropism of the expressed BX08 glycoprotein with much more expressed functionally active gp160 from the synthetic BX08 gene.

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- Figure 23 shows the anti-Env-V3 BX08 antibody titers (IgG1). Panels show individual mice DNA immunized with syn.gp140BX08 plasmid either i.m. (left panel) or by gene gun (right panel), respectively. Immunization time points are indicated by arrows.
- Figure 24 shows a Western Blotting of (from left to right) one control strip, followed by sere (1:50) from 2 mice i.m. immunized with synBX08gp120, 2 mice i.m. immunized with synBX08gp140, 2 mice i.m. immunized with synBX08gp150, and 2 mice immunized with synBX08gp160, followed by 2 mice gene gun immunized with synBX08gp120, 2 mice gene gun immunized with synBX08gp140, 2 mice gene gun immunized with syn BX08gp150, and 2 mice gene gun immunized with synBX08gp160 respectively. Strip 5 is a mouse 5.1 DNA immunized i.m. with synBX08gp140 plasmid (same mouse as in figure 23). Plasma was examined at week 18. The positing of gp160 (spiked with four coupled gp51), gp120 and gp41 is indicated at the right. A positive reaction to HIV glycoproteins futher demonstrates the mouse anti-HIV immunoglobulin reacting to HIV of a strain (IIIB)

different from BX08 to illustrate cross-strain reactivity.

Figure 25 Theoretical example of calculation of the 50% inhibitory concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>) values. IC<sub>50</sub> for each mouse serum is determined by interpolation from the plots of percent inhibition versus the dilution of serum.

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- Figure 26 CTL responses were measured at week 18 to the mouse H-2D<sup>d</sup> restricted BX08 V3 CTL epitope (IGPGGRAFYTT) for BALB/c mice (H-2D<sup>d</sup>) i.m. immunized at week 0, 9, and 15 with the synthetic vaccine genes: syn.gp120<sub>BX08</sub>, syn.gp140<sub>BX08</sub>, syn.gp150<sub>BX08</sub>, and syn.gp160<sub>BX08</sub>, respectively, and median values of different E:T ratios for groups of mice are shown (26A). Intramuscular DNA immunization with syn.gp150<sub>BX08</sub> induced a higher CTL reponse when injected i.m. in high amounts versus gene gun inoculation of skin (26B).
- Figure 27 Summary of western immuno blotting assay of mice sera (1:40) collected at week 0, 9, and 18 from mice genetically immunized with syn.gp120<sub>BX08</sub>, syn.gp140<sub>BX08</sub>,

syn.gp150 $_{BX08}$ , syn.gp160 $_{BX08}$ , wt.gp160 $_{BX08}$ , and wt.gp160 $_{BX08}$  plus pRev, respectively. Percent responders in groups of 17-25 mice against gp120 and gp41 are shown.

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Figure 28 IgG anti-rgp120 (IIIB) antibody titers of individual mice inoculated at week 0, 9, 15 (28A), or gene gun immunized at week 3, 6, 9, and 15 (28B) with the syn.gp150<sub>BX08</sub> DNA vaccine.

Figure 29 IgG antibody titers to HIV-1 rgp120<sub>IIIB</sub>. Median titers are shown from groups of mice i.m. inoculated at week 0, 9, and 15 (29A), or gene gun immunized at week 0, 3, 6, 9, and 15 (29B) with the synthetic genes syn.gp120<sub>BX08</sub>, syn.gp140<sub>BX08</sub>, syn.gp150<sub>BX08</sub>, and syn.gp160<sub>BX08</sub>, respectively.

### **Examples**

#### **Example 1: Designing the nucleotide sequence construct**

Initially the overall layout of the nucleotide sequence construct is decided. The overall layout comprises the various derivatives the gene will be expressed as. For BX08 these include, but are not restricted to gp160, gp150, gp140, gp120, and gp41.

Next, the vehicle of expression (plasmid or virus) is to be determined: Preparation for a suitable vector determines both need for leader sequence, terminal restriction enzyme sites and whether or not an N- or C-terminal protein tag is to be considered (Poly-his, Myc-antibody-epitop, etc.). For BX08 a plasmid expression vehicle was chosen. All native wild type HIV codons are systematically exchanged with the codons most frequently represented in a pool of highly expressed human genes (figure 1). By this exchange the amino acid sequence is conserved while the nucleotide sequence is dramatically altered. Thus, gene structures like overlapping reading frames (e.g. vpu, rev, and tat) or secondary structures (e.g. RRE) are most likely destroyed whereas protein cleavage sites, and glycosylation sites are maintained. The 100% amino acid identity between wtBX08 and synthetic BX08 in the present examples should be calculated after the initial Ala-Ser amino acid sequence, as that sequence is a part of the 6 amino acid sequence long Nhel restriction enzyme site.

Depending on the restriction enzyme sites located in the expression vector it is decided
which restriction enzyme sites can be present (tolerated) throughout the finished gene
construct. The terminal restriction enzyme sites of the synthetic gene must remain unique to
enable cloning into the vector chosen for expression. General requirements for restriction
enzyme sites of choice: Preferably creating cohesive ends facilitating ligation, creating no
compatible ends with adjacent restriction enzyme sites (e.g. BamHl/Bg/II), and being efficient
cutters. For BX08 the restriction enzyme sites accepted were the ones present in the
polylinker of the pBluescript cloning vectors (Eagl, Mlul, EcoRV, Pstl, Clal, EcoRI, Xbal,
SacI, Spel, Xhol, HindIII, SacII, NotI, BamHl, Smal, SalI, Dral, KpnI with the exception of
Bg/II and Nhel). This was decided to satisfy the original cloning strategy using individual
cloning of snuts in pBluescript with restriction enzyme cleaved (trimmed) ends after PCR
amplification, which is not necessary when blunt-end cloning and assembling of
complementary oligonucleotides are employed. All locations at which the selected restriction
enzyme sites can be introduced by silent mutations (keeping 100% loyal to the amino acid
sequence) are identified using the SILMUT software or equivalent.

From these possible restriction enzyme sites, a selection of restriction enzyme sites are introduced by silent nucleotide substitutions around functional regions of choice of the corresponding gene (e.g. RRE) or gene products (e.g. variable region 1 (V1), V2, V3, CD4 binding area, transmembrane domain, and regions of immunological significans, etc.).

- 5 Restriction enzyme sites are located at terminal positions of subcloned snuts (building entities) but additional restriction enzyme sites may be present within subunits. For BX08 the construct was initially to be cloned in the WRG7079 vector containing a tPA-leader sequence. Cloning sites were 5'-Nhel → BamHI-3'. The entire humanised BX08 sequence was divided into thirds: 5'-Nhel → Xhol → SacII → BamHI-3'. These sites were chosen in
- 10 this particular order because it resembles the polylinker of pBluescript (KS') enabling successive ligations of the assembled thirds in this cloning vector. Within these thirds restriction enzyme sites were kept unique. Next, restriction enzyme sites were placed to flank the functional regions chosen as follows:
- A. (5'-V1): *Eco*RV-235: Between C1 and V1. Alternatives: 3×*Hind*III (already excluded because exclusive use at position 1890) or *Eco*RV.
  - B. (V1-3'): Only alternative Pstl 375.
  - C. (5'-V2): as B.
  - D. (V2-3'): Alternatives: Spel, Clal 495. Clal chosen because it is closer to V2.
  - E. EcoRI 650 placed because next possible site was too far away.
- 20 F. (5'-V3): Bg/II 720 was the alternative closest to the V3 region and further more unique.
  - G. (V3-3'): Alternatives Xhol (excluded) and Xhal 900 located very close to the V3 loop.
  - H. (5'-V4) Sacl 990: alternatively *Eco*Rl or *Bam*Hl (both excluded)
  - I. (V4-3'): Alternatives *Spel* 1110, *Kpnl* 1145, *Pstl* 1135. *Pstl* already used, *Spel* chosen because of distance to previous site (*Sacl* 990).
- 25 J. (5'-V5): *Xho*l initially determined.
  - K. (Fusion peptide-3') Pstl 1465 was the closest alternative to Xhol 1265.
  - L. (5'-Immunodominant region): Xbal 1630 chosen among EcoRV (blunt end), Pstl and Xhol (both already used).
  - M. (Immunodominant region-3'): Eagl 1700 perfect location.
- 30 N. (C34 and C43 -3' (Chan, Fass, et al. 1997), and 5'-trans membrane domain): SacII. No alternatives.
  - O. (Trans membrane domain -3'): SacII 2060 already present.
  - P. Clal 2190 perfect position in relation to previous RE-site.
  - Q: Pstl perfect position in relation to previous RE-site.
- 35 R. EcoRl 2400 introduced to facilitate later substitution of terminal snut.
  - S. BamHI 2454 determined by the WRG7079 vector.

Remove undesired restriction enzyme sites by nucleotide substitutions (keeping loyal to the amino acid sequence). Nucleotide substitution should preferably create codon frequently used in highly expressed human genes (figure 1). If that is not possible, the codons should be the selected from the regular codons (figure 7). The substitutions made to the second nucleotide sequence to obtain desired restriction enzyme sites are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 lists silent nucleotide substitutions in the humanised BX08 envelope sequence. Substitutions were made to create or delete restriction enzyme sites.

Position:	substitution	Remarks:
138	$c \rightarrow g$	creates Mlu I site on pos. 134-139
240	$c \rightarrow t$	creates EcoRV site on pos. 238-243
501	$c \rightarrow a$	creates Cla I site on pos. 501-506
502	$a \rightarrow t$	do
503	$g \rightarrow c$	do
504	c → g	do
657	c → a	creates EcoRI site on pos. 656-661
660	$c \rightarrow t$	do
724	$c \rightarrow a$	creates Bgl II site on pos. 724-729
726	$c \rightarrow g$	do
727	$a \rightarrow t$	do
728	$g \rightarrow c$	do
729	$c \rightarrow t$	do
840	$c \rightarrow t$	Eagl site is eliminated
904	$a \rightarrow t$	creates Xba I site on pos. 904-909
905	$g \rightarrow c$	do
906	$c \rightarrow t$	do
907	$c \rightarrow a$	do
909	$c \rightarrow a$	do
994	$a \rightarrow t$	creates Sac I site on pos. 990-995
995	$g \rightarrow c$	do
1116	$c \rightarrow t$	creates Spel site on pos. 1114-1119
1119	$c \rightarrow t$	do
1273	$a \rightarrow t$	creates Xhol site on pos. 1272-1277
1274	$g \rightarrow c$	do
1275	$c \rightarrow g$	do
1293	$c \rightarrow t$	Bgl II site is eliminated
1443	$c \rightarrow t$	BstXI site is eliminated
1452	$g \rightarrow c$	do
1467	$c \rightarrow t$	Pstl site on pos. 1466-1471
1470	c → a	do
1590 1620	$g \rightarrow c$	Pstl site on pos. 1588-1593 is eliminated
1638	g→c	Pstl site on pos. 1618-1623 is eliminated
1641	$c \rightarrow t$	creates Xbal site on pos. 1638-1643
1653	g → a	do Pathaita is aliminated
1687	g→c	PstI site is eliminated
1688	a → t	Pstl site is eliminated Pstl site is eliminated
1710	$g \rightarrow c$	
1758	$c \rightarrow g$	creates Eagl site on pos. 1709-1714  Bgl II site is eliminated
1875	c→t	PstI site is eliminated
1893	g → c	Hind III on pos. 1893-1898
1897	c → a c → t	do
1944		
1077	c→t	Bgl II site is eliminated

Position:	substitution	Remarks:
2199	c → t	Cla I site on pos. 2198-2203
2202	$c \rightarrow t$	do
2203	$c \rightarrow t$	do
2253	$c \rightarrow g$	SacII site is eliminated
2292	$g \rightarrow c$	Pstl site is eliminated
2320	a → t	Pstl site on pos. 2321-2326 is eliminated
2321	$a \rightarrow t$	do
2322	$g \rightarrow t$	do
2325	c → a	do
2430	c → a	creates EcoRI site on pos. 2429-2434
2433	c → t	do

#### **Example 2: synthesis of oligos**

In order to clone the individual snuts, nucleotide strands were synthesised or purchased. In total 28 synthetic nucleotide strands were synthesised. Nucleotide strands were synthesised 5 by standard 0.2 μmol β-cyanoethyl-phosphoramidite chemistry on an Applied Biosystems DNA synthesiser model 392, employing 2000 Å CPG columns (Cruachem, Glasgow, Scotland), acetonitrile containing less than 0.001% water (Labscan, Dublin, Ireland) and standard DNA-synthesis chemicals from Cruachem, including phosphoramidites at 0.1 M and Tetrahydrofuran/N-methylimidazole as cap B solution. The nucleotide strands O-N-C 10 and 119MS-RC (for cloning of snut O-N-Lang), 650-E-BG and 720-XBAC-31 (for cloning of snut 650-720-EcoRI), 2425esup and 2425ESdo (for cloning of snut 2425-E-S) were synthesised with 5' end "trityl on" and purified on "Oligonucleotide Purification Cartridges" (Perkin Elmer, CA, USA) as described by the manufacturer. Other nucleotide strands (235-ECO5, 375-pst1.seq, 495-Cla1.seq,900-Xbal, 990-sac1, 1110-SPE, 1630-Xba.seq, 1700-15 Eag.seq, 17-Eag.seq, 1890-Hind.MPD, 2060-sac, 2190-cla, 2330-pst) were synthesised with 5' end "trityl off" and purified by standard ethanol precipitation. Oligoes 1265-1UP, 1265-1DO, 1265-2UP, 1265-2DO, 1265-3UP, 1265-3DO, 1465-1UP, 1465-1DO, 1465-2UP, 1465-2DO were purchased from Pharmacia.

#### **Example 3: Cloning of snuts**

- The nucleotide sequence construct was designed in 17 DNA small pieces called snuts (Table 3) encompassing important structures like variable and constant regions each flanked with restriction enzyme (RE) sites to facilitate cassette exchange within each third of the gene: *Nhel-Xhol*, *Xhol-Sacll*, *Sacll-Bam*HI.
- 25 Each snut was cloned individually in a commercial vector (pBluescriptKS or pMOSblue) and kept as individual DNA plasmids, named after the snut which gives the nucleotide position of the RE in the BX08.

Table 3 list the snuts by their name and cloning vector.

Name	Cloning vector:
S <sub>O-N-Lang</sub>	pMOSblue
S <sub>235EcoRV</sub>	pMOSblue
S <sub>375Pstl</sub>	pBluescriptSK
S <sub>495Clal</sub>	pMOSblue
S <sub>650-720EcoRl</sub>	pMOSblue
S <sub>900Xbal</sub>	pMOSblue
S <sub>990Sacl</sub>	pMOSblue
S <sub>1110Spel</sub>	pMOSblue
S <sub>1265Xhol</sub>	pBluescriptSK
S <sub>1465PstI</sub>	pBluescriptSK
S <sub>1630Xbal</sub>	pBluescriptSK
S <sub>1700Eagl</sub>	pBluescriptSK
S <sub>1890HindIII</sub>	pBluescriptSK
S <sub>2060SacII</sub>	pMOSblue
S <sub>2190Clal</sub>	pMOSblue
S <sub>2330Psti</sub>	pMOSblue
S <sub>2425ES</sub>	pBluescriptSK

Three principally different methods were used to obtain the dsDNA corresponding to each of the 17 snuts needed to build the synthetic BX08 genes.

"Overlapping" PCR: is based on the use of two ssDNA template nucleotide strands
(forward and reverse) that complement each other in their 3'-end (figure 8). During the first
PCR cycle, both templates annealed to each other at the 3'-ends allowing the full-length
polymerisation of each complementary strand during the elongation step. The newly
polymerized dsDNA strand are then amplified during the following cycles using an adequate
forward and reverse primers set (figure 8).

Snut O-N-LANG: (S<sub>O-N-Lang</sub>) two ng of the forward template nucleotide strands O-N-C and 2

15 ng of the reward template-nucleotide strand 119MS-RC were mixed together with 50pmoles of the forward primer O-N-LANG-5 (5'-CTAGCTA-GCGCGGCCGACCGCCT -3') and 50pmoles of the reverse primer O-N-LANG-3 (5'-CTCGATATCCTCGTGCATCTGCTC -3') in a 100μl PCR reaction volume containing 0.2mM dNTP's, 1x ExpandHF buffer with MgCl₂ (1.5mM) and 2.6 units of enzyme mix (Expand™ High fidelity PCR system from Boehringer Mannheim). The PCR was performed with the PE Amp 9600 thermocycler (Perkin Elmer) using the following cycle conditions: initial denaturation at 94°C for 30 sec., followed by 30 cycles of 94°C for 15 sec., 65°C for 30 sec., 72°C for 45 sec., with a final elongation at 72°C for 5 min., and cooling to 4°C.

Snut 650-720-EcoRI: (S<sub>650-720EcoRI</sub>) PCR amplification was performed as described for snut O-N-LANG. One μg of the forward ssDNA template-oligonucleotide 650-E-BG and 1 μg of the reverse ssDNA template-oligonucleotide 720-XBAC were mixed with 40pmoles of the forward primer 650-E-5 (5'-CCGGAATT-CGCCCCGTGGTGAGCA-3') and 40 pmoles of the reverse primer 720-X-3 (5'-CTGCTCTAGAGATGTTGCAGTGGGCCT-3').

2) "Normal" PCR amplification: Eleven nucleotide strands: 235-ECO5, 375-pst1, 900-xba1, 990-sac1, 1110-SPE, 1630-XBA, 1700-EAG, 1890-HIN, 2060-sac, 2190-cla, and 2330-pst, were designed with common 5' and 3' flanking sequences which allowed PCR amplification 10 with the same primer set (Forward primer: BX08-5 (5'-AGCGGATAACAATTTCACACAGGA-3') and revers primer: BX08-3 (5'-CGCCAGGGTTTTCCCAGTCACGAC-3') (Figure 9). The 495-Cla1 oligonucleotide was designed without a common flanking sequence and was therefore amplified with a specific set of primers 495-5N/495-3N (5'-GAATCGAT-CATCACCCAG-3' and 5'-GACGAATTCCGTGGGTGCACT-3'). Each oligonucleotide was 15 resuspended in 1ml of water and kept as a stock solution (approximatively 0.2 mM). PCR amplification was performed with the Expand™ High Fidelity PCR System from Boehringer Mannheim (Cat. No. 1759078). Four concentrations of template nucleotide strand were systematically used: undiluted stock solution, stock solution 10<sup>-1</sup>, stock solution 10<sup>-2</sup>, stock solution 10<sup>-3</sup>. One to 5 μl of synthetic ssDNA template was amplified using the following 20 conditions: BX08-5 (0.5μM), BX08-3 (0.5μM), 4 dNTP's (0.2mM), 1x ExpandHF buffer with MgCl<sub>2</sub> (1.5mM) and 2.6 units of enzyme mix. The PCR was performed using the PE Amp 9600 thermocycler (Perkin Elmer) using the following cycle conditions: initial denaturation at 94°C for 15 sec., followed by 30 cycles of 94°C for 15 sec., 65°C for 30 sec. and 72°C for 45 sec., with a final elongation at 72°C for 7 min., and cooling to 4°C.

25

3) Minigene approach: This method was used to synthesise S<sub>1265Xhol</sub>, S<sub>1465Xbal</sub> and S<sub>2425ES</sub>.
Snut 2425-E-S (S<sub>2425ES</sub>): 100 picomoles of each oligonucleotide 2425ES-up (35-mer; 5'-AATTCGCCAGGGCTTCGAGCGCCCCTGCTGTAAG-3') and 2425ES-do (35-mer;
GATCCTTACAGCAGGGCGCGCTCGAAGC-CCTGGCG-3') were mixed together in a 100 μl
30 final volume of annealing buffer containing NaCl 25mM, Tris 10mM and 1mM EDTA. After denaturation at 94°C for 15 min., the mixed oligonucleotides were allowed to anneal at 65°C during 15min.. The annealing temparature was allowed to slowly decrease from the 65°C to room temperature (22°C) during overnight incubation. The resulting double-strand dsDNA fragments harbored EcoRI- and BamHI-restriction sites overhangs that allowed direct cloning in pBluescript KS(+) vector using standard cloning techniques (Maniatis 1996).

31

Snut 1265-Xhol (S<sub>1265Xhol</sub>): This snut was built according to the strategy depicted in figure 10. Three minigenes were constructed following the same method described for snut 2425-E-S. These minigenes are named 1265-1, 1265-2 and 1265-3. The minigene 1265-1 results from the annealing of the oligonucleotides 1265-1up (68-mer; 5'-TCG AGC AGC GGC AAG GAG ATT
TTC CGC CCC GGC GGC GGC GAC ATGC GCG ACA ACT GGC GCA GCG AGC T-3') and 1265-1do (68-mer; 5'-GTA CAG CTC GCT GCG CCA GTT GTC GCG CAT GTC GCC GCC GGC GCG GCG GAAA ATC TCC TTG CCG CTG C-3'). 1265-2 results from the annealing of 1265-2up (61-mer; 5'-GTA CAA GTA CAA GGT GAA GAT CGA GCC CCT GGG CAT CGC CCC CAC CAA GGC CAA GCG C-3') and 1265-2do (63-mer; 5'-CAC GCG GCG GCT GTG GCT GTT GGT GGG GGC GAT GCC CAG GGG CTC GAT
CTT CAC CAC CTT GTA CTT-3'). Finally, 1265-3 results from the annealing of 1265-3up (69-mer; 5'-CGC GTG GTG CAG CGC GAG AAG CGC GCC GTG GGC ATC GGC GCT ATG TTC CTC GGC TTC CTG GGC GCT GCA-3') and 1265-3do (59-mer; 5'-GCG CCC AGG AAG CCG AGG AAC ATA GCG CCG ATG CCC ACG GCG CGC TTC TCG CGC TGC AC-3'). Each minigene were designed in order to present single strand overhangs at their 5' and 3'- ends that allow easy ligation and Xhol-Pstl direct cloning into pBlueScript KS+ vector.

Snut 1465-Pstl (S<sub>1465Pstl</sub>): Two minigenes were constructed following the same methode described for snut 2425-E-S. These minigenes are named 1465-1 and 1465-2. The minigene 1465-1 was obtained after annealing of 1465-1up (90-mer: 5'-GGC AGC ACC ATG GGC GCC
20 GCC AGC CTG ACC CTG ACC GTG CAG GCC CGC CAG CTG CTG AGC GGC ATC GTG CAG CAG CAG AAC AAC CTG CTG-3') and 1465-1do (98-mer: 5'-CGC GCA GCA GGT TGT TCT GCT GCT GCA CGA TGC CGC TCA GCA GCT GGC GGG CCT GCA CGA TGG TGC CTG CA-3'), whereas minigene 1465-2 results from the annealing of 1465-2up (78-mer; 5'-CGC GCC ATC GAG GCC CAG CAG CAC CTG CTC CAG CTGA CCG TGT GGG GCA TCA AGC AGC TCC
25 AGG CCC GCG TGC TGG CT-3') and 1465-2do (78-mer; 5'-CTA GAG CCA GCA CGC GGG CCT GGA GCT GCT TGA TGC CCC ACA CGG TCA GCT GGA GCA GGT GCT GCT GGG CCT CGA TGG-3'. Each minigene were designed in order to present single strand overhangs at their 5' and 3'- ends that allow easy ligation and Pstl-Xbal direct cloning into pBlueScript KS+ vector using standard cloning techniques (Maniatis) (see figure 11).

### 30 Example 4: assembly of snuts to pieces.

The snut genes were then assembled into pieces (Table 4) so that unique restriction enzyme sites or mutagenesis can be used within each of these. This strategy will require fewer assemblings for optimal use of the cassette system. The following piece clones were made and kept individually for construction of the synBX08 gp160 gene (Figure 6):

Table 4 lists pieces by their name and their snut composition.

Piece	snut composition	vector
<u>name</u>		
$P_1$	SO-N-LANG-S235EcoRV-S375Pstl	pBluescriptSK
$P_2$	S <sub>900Xbal</sub> -S <sub>990Sacl</sub> -S <sub>1110Spel</sub>	pMOSblue
$P_3$	P <sub>1</sub> -S <sub>495Clal</sub> -S <sub>650</sub> -720EcoRl-P <sub>2</sub>	pBluescriptSK
P <sub>4gp160</sub>	S <sub>1630Xbal</sub> -S <sub>1700Eagl</sub> -S <sub>1890Hinili</sub>	pBluescriptSK
$P_5$	S <sub>2190Clal</sub> -S <sub>2330Pstl</sub> -S <sub>2425ES</sub>	pBluescriptKS
$P_7$	P <sub>8gp160</sub> -S <sub>2060Sacil</sub> -P <sub>5</sub>	pBluescriptKS
P <sub>8gp160</sub>	S <sub>1265Xhol</sub> -S <sub>1465Pstl</sub> -P <sub>4gp160</sub>	pBluescriptKS

**Piece 1:** The building strategy is shown in figure 12.

Preparation of the insert DNA: Five to 15µg of each plasmid O-N-LANG-cl7 and 235-EcoRV-5 cl5N, respectively, were double-digested by Xbal/EcoRV, and Pstl/EcoRV, according to classical RE digestion procedure (Maniatis). The RE digestion products, were agarose gel purified according classical method (Maniatis). All RE digests were loaded on a 3% Nusieve 3:1(FMC), TBE 0.5X agarose gel and submitted to electrophoresis (7 Volts/mm during 2-3hours) until optimal fragment separation. The agarose-band containing the DNA fragments 10 that correspond to the snut's sequence sizes (243-bp for O-N-LANG and 143-bp for 235-EcoRV) were excised from the gel. The DNA was extracted from agarose by centrifugation 20min at 5000g using a spin-X column (Costar cat#8160). Preparation of the vector: The snut 375-Pst1 klon1 was used as plasmid vector. Five μg were digested with Xbal and Pst1. Removal of the polylinker Xbal/Pstl fragment was performed by classical agarose gel 15 purification, using a 0.9% Seakem-GTG agarose, TBE 0.5X gel. The linearised plasmid DNA was extracted from the agarose by filtration through spin-X column. All purified DNA fragments were quantified by spectrophotometry. Ligation: All three DNA fragments O-N-LANG (Xbal/EcoRV), 235-EcoRV (Pstl/EcoRV) and 375-Pstl(Xbal/Pstl), were ligated together by classical ligation procedure, using an equimolar (vector:insert1:insert2) ratio of 20 1:1:1. Thus for, 200 ng (0.1 pmole) of Xbal/Pstl-linearised 375-Pstl-cl1 were mixed with 16 ng of O-N-LANG (Xbal/EcoRV) and 10 ng of 235-EcoRV (Pstl/EcoRV) in a final reaction volume of 20μl of 1X ligation buffer containing 10U of T4 DNA ligase (Biolabs, cat#202S). The ligation was allowed overnight at 16°C. <u>Transformation</u>: Competent XL1-Blue bacteria (Stratagene cat#200130, transformation efficiency > 5•10<sup>6</sup> col/μg) were transformed by 25 classical heat-chock procedure: 1/10th of the pre-chilled ligation reaction was mixed with 50μl of competent bacteria. The mixture was allowed to stand in ice during 30 min. Bacteria were heat-shocked at 42°C during 45 sec. and then left 2 min. on ice before being resuspended in 450 μl of SOC medium. Transformed bacteria were incubated 1 hour at 37°C under shaking (250rpm) and plated on LB-ampicilin agar plates. The recombinant clones

were allowed to grow 16 hours at 37°C. <u>Colony screening</u>: 10 to 50 recombinant colonies were screened by direct PCR screening according to the protocole described into the pMOSBlue blunt-ended cloning kit booklet (RPN 5110, Amersham). Each colony was picked and resuspended in 50μl of water. DNA was freed by a boilling procedure (100°C, 5

- 5 min).Ten μl of bacterial lysate were mixed to 1 μl of a 10mM solution of premixed 4 dNTP's , 1 μl of M13reverse primer (5pmoles/μl, 5'-CAGGAAACAGCTATGAC-3'), 1 μl of T7 primer (5pmoles/μl, 5'-TAATACGACTCACTATAGGG-3'), 5μl of 10x Expand HF buffer 2 (Boehringer Mannheim, cat#1759078), 0.5μl of Enzyme mix (Boehringer Mannheim, 5U/μl) in a final volume of 50μl. DNA amplification was performed with a thermo-cycler PE9600
- 10 (Perkin-Elmer) using the following cycling parameters: 94°C, 2min, 35 cycles(94°C, 30sec; 50°C, 15sec; 72°C,30sec); 72°C, 5min; 4°C hold. Five μl of the PCR products were analysed after electrophoresis on a 0.9% SeakemGTG, 0.5xTBE agarose gel. *Nucleotide sequence confirmation:* ds-DNA was purified from minicultures of the selected clones with the JETstar mini plasmid purification system (Genomed Inc.). Sequencing was performed using
- 15 M13reverse and T7 primers and with the Big DyeTM Terminator Cycle Sequencing Ready reaction kit (Perkin-Elmer, Norwalk, Connecticut, P/N4303152) and the ABI-377 automated DNA sequenator (Applied Biosystems, Perkin-Elmer, Norwalk, Connecticut). Data were processed with the Sequence Navigator and Autoassembler softwares (Applied Biosystems, Perkin-Elmer, Norwalk, Connecticut).

- **Piece 2:** The strategy for building that piece is depicted in figure 13. RE digestion, DNA fragments purification, ligation as well as direct PCR screening of recombinant colonies were performed according the same procedures described above for piece1, except the following:
- The linearised plasmid 1110-Spel-cl24M1 was used as vector after being digested by
- 25 HindIII and Spel, and agarose gel purified.
  - A 166-bp HindIII/Sacl, obtained from snut 900-Xbal-cl15, as well as a 130-bp Sacl/Spel fragment, obtained from snut 990-Sacl-cl14, were agarose gel purified.
  - Equimolar amount (0.1 pmoles) of the three DNA fragments described above were ligated in an one step ligation.
- 30 100μl of competent SCS110 bacteria (Stratagene cat# 200247) were transformed with 1/10th of the ligation products according to the manufactor instruction.
  - Direct colony PCR screening was performed using T7 primer and pMOS-R (5'-GTTGTAAAACGACGCCAG-3').

- **Piece 3:** The strategy for building that piece is depicted in figure 14. RE digestion, DNA fragments purification, ligation as well as direct PCR screening of recombinant colonies were performed according the same procedures described above for piece1, except the following:
- The plasmid piece1-cl33 was linearised by Clal and Xhol, in order to be used as vector, and agarose gel purified.
  - A 161-bp Clal/EcoRl fragment, obtained from 495-Clal-cl135M1 as well as a 254-bp EcoRl/Xbal fragment, obtained from 650-720-EcoRl-cl39, and a 374-bp Xbal/Xhol fragment, obtained from piece2-cl4, were agarose gel purified.
- Equimolar amount (0.1 pmole) of each of these 4 DNA fragments were mixed and ligated together.
  - 50µl of competent XL1Blue bacteria were transformed with 1/10th of the ligation products according to the protocole described for piece1.
  - Direct colony PCR screening was performed using M13Reverse and T7 primers.
- Piece 4 gp160: The strategy for building that piece is depicted in figure 15. RE digestion, DNA fragments purification, ligation as well as direct PCR screening of recombinant colonies were performed according the same procedures described above for piece1, except the following:
- The plasmid 1630-Xbal-cl2 was linearised by SacII/ Eagl digestion and agarose gel purified, in order to be used as vector.
  - A 190-bp Eagl/HindIII fragment, obtained from snut 1700-Eagl-cl4, as well as a 177-bp SacII/HindIII fragment, obtained from snut 1890-HindIII-cl8, were agarose gel purified.
  - Equimolar amount (0.1 pmoles) of the three DNA fragments described above were ligated in an one step ligation.
- 25 50μl of competent XL1Blue bacteria were transformed with 1/10th of the ligation products according to the protocole described for piece1.
  - Direct colony PCR screening was performed using M13Reverse and T7 primers.
- Piece 4-gp150: PCR-based site-directed mutagenesis was performed on double-stranded plasmid-DNA from piece4-cl4 according an adaptation of the ExSite<sup>™</sup> PCR-Based Site-Directed Mutagenesis Kit procedure (Stratagene cat#200502)(Weiner, M.P., Costa, G.L., Schoettlin, W., Cline, J., Marthur, E., and Bauer, J.C. (1994) Gene 151:119-123). The mutations introduced are shown in bold letters in the primer sequences below. PCR amplification was performed with the Expand<sup>™</sup> High Fidelity PCR System (Boehringer
- 35 Mannheim, cat#1759078). Briefly, 1.5 μg, 0.5 μg or 0.1 μg of circular dsDNA was mixed with 1.5 pmoles of P4M2S (5'-TCTGGAAGCTCAGGGGGCTGCATCCCTGGC-3') and 1.5

pmoles of P4M2AS (5'-CCCGCCTGCCCGTGTGACGGATCCAGCTCC-3') in a final volume of 50μl containing 4 dNTPs (250μM each), 1x Expand HF buffer 2 (Boehringer Mannheim, cat#1759078), 0.75μl of Enzyme mix (Boehringer Mannheim, 5U/μl). The PCR was performed with a PE9600 thermo-cycler (Perkin-Elmer Corporation) under the following 5 cycling parameters : 94°C, 2min ; 15 cycles (94 °C, 45 sec ; 68 °C, 4 min); 72°C, 7min and 4 °C, hold. PCR products were phenol:chloroform extracted and precipitated (Maniatis). Plasmid template was removed from PCR products by DpnI treatment (Biolabs)(Nelson, M., and McClelland, M., 1992) followed by ethanol-precipitation. Amplicons were resuspended in 50  $\mu l$  steril water, and phosphorylated according the following procedure: 7.5  $\mu l$  of amplicons 10 were mixed with 0.5μl of 100mM DTT, 1 μl of 10x pk buffer and 1 μl of pk mix enzyme (pMOSBlue blunt-ended cloning kit, Amersham, cat#RPN 5110). DNA kinasing was allowed 5min at 22°C. After heat-inactivation (10min, 75°C) of the pk enzyme, 1µl of ligase (4units, Amersham, cat#RPN 5110) was directly added to the pk reaction. The ligation was allowed overnight at 22°C. 50µl of competent XL1Blue bacteria were transformed with 1/10th of the 15 ligation reaction according to the classical protocol (Maniatis). Insertion of mutations was checked by sequencing.

Piece 4-gp140: PCR-based site-directed mutagenesis was performed on piece 4-cl4, according to the procedure described for piece4-gp150 except that the primers P4M1AS (5'-TGTGTGACTGATTGAGGATCCCCAACTGGC-3') and P4S (5'-AGCTTGCCCACTTGTCCAGCTGGAGCAGGT-3') were used.

Snut 1265-Xhol-gp120: PCR-based site-directed mutagenesis was performed on plasmid 1265-Xhol-cl2M1 according to the procedure described for piece4-gp150 except that the primers 1265MAS (5'-CTTCTCGCGCTGCACCACGCGGCGCTTGGC-3') and 1265M2S (5'-CGCGCCTAGGCATCGGCGCTATGTTCCTC-3') were used.

Snut 1265-Xhol-gp160/uncleaved: PCR-based site-directed mutagenesis was performed on plasmid 1265-Xhol-cl2M1 according to the procedure described for piece4-gp150 except
 that the primers 1265MAS (5'-CTTCTCGCGCTGCACCACGCGGCGCTTGGC-3') and 1265M2S (5'-AGCGCCGTGGGCATCGGCGCTATGTTCCTC-3') were used.

Snut 1465-Pstl-CCG: PCR-based site-directed mutagenesis was performed on plasmid 1465-Pstl-cl25 according to the procedure described for piece4-gp150 except that the primers 1465MAS (5'-CTGCTTGATGCCCCACACGGTCAGCTG-3') and 1465MS (5'-TGCTGCGGCCGCGTGCTGGCTCTAGA-3') were used.

- **Piece 5**: The strategy for building that piece is depicted in figure 16. RE digestion, DNA fragments purification, ligation as well as direct PCR screening of recombinant colonies were performed according the same procedures described above for piece1, except the following:
- The plasmid 2425-ES-cl2 was linearised by Clal/EcoRI digestion and agarose gel purified, in order to be used as vector.
  - A 129-bp Pstl/Clal fragment, obtained 2190-Clal-cl6M15, as well as a 114-bp Pstl/Ecorl fragment, obtained from 2330-Pstl-cl8, were agarose gel purified.
- Equimolar amount (0.1 pmoles) of the three DNA fragments described above were ligated 10 in an one step ligation.
  - 50µl of competent XL1Blue bacteria were transformed with 1/10th of the ligation products according to the protocole described for piece1.
  - Direct colony PCR screening was performed using T3 (5'-ATTAACCCTCACTAAAG-3') and T7 primers.

- **piece 8**: The strategy for building that piece is depicted in figure 17. RE digestion, DNA fragments purification, ligation as well as direct PCR screening of recombinant colonies were performed according the same procedures described above for piece1, except the following:
- The plasmid piece4-cl4 was linearised by Xbal/Xhol and agarose gel purified, in order to be used as vector.
  - A 200-bp Xhol/PstI fragment, obtained from 1265-Xhol-cl2M1 as well as a 178-bp PstI/Xbal fragment, obtained from 1465-PstI-cl25 were agarose gel purified.
  - Equimolar amount (0.1 pmole) of these 3 DNA fragments were mixed and ligated together.
- 50μl of competent XL1Blue bacteria were transformed with 1/10th of the ligation products according to the protocole described for piece1.
  - Direct colony PCR screening was performed using T3 and T7 primers.

piece 8-gp150: The strategy for building that piece was identical to that of piece 8, except that piece4-cl4M3 was used as vector (figure 18).

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piece8-gp150/ uncleaved: The strategy for building that piece is identical to that of piece 8, except that piece4 gp160-cl4M3 is used as vector and a 200-bp Xhol/Pstl fragment, obtained from snut 1265-Xhol-gp160/uncleaved as well as a 178-bp Pstl/Xbal fragment, obtained from snut 1465-Pstl-CCG are used like inserts.

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piece 8-gp140: The strategy for building that piece was identical to that of piece 8, except that piece4-cl4M5 was used as vector (figure 19).

piece8-gp140/ uncleaved: The strategy for building that piece is identical to that of piece 8,
 except that piece4-cl4M5 is used as vector and a 200-bp Xhol/Pstl fragment, obtained from snut 1265-Xhol-gp160/uncleaved as well as a 178-bp Pstl/Xbal fragment, obtained from snut 1465-Pstl-CCG are used like inserts.

Piece8-gp41: The strategy for building that piece is depicted in figure 20. RE digestion,

10 DNA fragments purification, ligation as well as direct PCR screening of recombinant colonies were performed according the same procedures described for synBX08 gp160 gene. A 63 bp linker is to be made according to the method described for snut 2425-ES, the minigene appraach. Thus for 2 complementary oligonucleotides: 1265-gp41S(5'-

TCGAGgctagcGCCGTGGGCATCGGCGCTATGTTCCTCGGCTTCCTGGGCGctgca-3') and 1265-gp41AS (5'-gCGCCCAGGAAGCCGAGGAAC-

ATAGCGCCGATGCCCACGGCgctagcC-3' should be annealed together. This synthetic linker will be directly ligated into the *Xhol /Pst*l sites of piece8-klon13 from which the snut 1265-Xhol-cl 2M1 would have been removed.

- 20 piece7: The strategy for building that piece is depicted in figure 21. RE digestion, DNA fragments purification, ligation as well as direct PCR screening of recombinant colonies were performed according the same procedures described above for piece1, except the following:
  - The plasmid piece5-cl1 was linearised by Clal/Xhol and agarose gel purified, in order to be used as vector,.
- 25 A 798-bp Xhol/SacII fragment, obtained from piece8-cl13 as well as a 140-bp SacII/Clal fragment, obtained from 2060-SacII-cl21 were agarose gel purified.
  - The ligation of the 3 fragments was performed using a vector:insert ratio of 1:1, 1:2 or 1:5.
  - $50\mu$ l of competent XL1Blue bacteria were transformed with 1/10th of the ligation products according to the protocole described for piece1.
- 30 Direct colony PCR screening was performed using M13Reverse and T7 primers.

#### Example 5: assembly of genes

**synBX08 gp160 gene**: The strategy for building that gene is depicted in figure 6. RE digestion, DNA fragments purification, ligation as well as direct PCR screening of recombinant colonies were performed according the same procedures described for piece1.

35 20 μg of the expression plasmid WRG7079 were digested by Nhel/BamHl. Plasmid DNA-

- ends were dephosphorylated by Calf Intestin Phosphatase treatment (CIP, Biolabs) (Maniatis) to avoid autoligation of any partially digested vector. CIP enzyme was heat-inactivated and removed by classical phenol-chloroforme extraction. A 1277-bp Nhel/Xhol fragment, obtained from piece3-cl27, as well as a 1194-bp Xhol/BamHI fragment, obtained from piece7-cl1, were agarose gel purified. The ligation was performed using a vector:insert ratio of 1:1 or 1:2. Fifty μl of competent XL1Blue bacteria were transformed with 1/10th of the ligation product according to the protocole described for piece1. After transformation bacteria were plated on LB-kanamycin agar plates. Direct PCR colony screening was performed using the primer set WRG-F (5'-AGACATAATAGCTGACAGAC-3') and WRG-R (5'-10 GATTGTATTTCTGTCCCTCAC-3'). The nucleotide sequence was determined according the methods described above for piece1.
- synBX08 gp150 gene: The strategy for building that gene is depicted in figure 5. RE digestion, DNA fragments purification, ligation as well as direct PCR screening of
  recombinant colonies were performed according the same procedures described for synBX08 gp160 gene. A 1277-bp Nhel/Xhol fragment, obtained from piece3-cl27, as well as a 800-bp Xhol/BamHl fragment, obtained from piece 8-gp150-cl26, were agarose gel purified and then ligated into the Nhel/BamHl WRG7079 sites. The ligation was performed using a vector:insert ratio of 1:1 or 1:2.
- 20 For construction of the synthetic BX08 gp150, piece4 was mutated to Piece4gp150 whereby a tyrosine -> cysteine was changed and a stop codon was introduced after the transmembrane spanning domaine ( *TMD*), followed by a BamHI cloning site. A new piece8gp150 was constructed composed of snut1265/snut1465/piece4gp150.
- synBX08 gp150/uncleaved gene: RE digestion, DNA fragments purification, ligation as well as direct PCR screening of recombinant colonies are performed according the same procedures described for synBX08 gp160 gene. A 1277-bp Nhel/Xhol fragment, obtained from piece3-cl27, as well as a 800-bp Xhol/BamHI fragment, obtained from piece 8-gp150/uncleaved, are agarose gel purified and then are ligated into the Nhel/BamHI 30 WRG7079 sites. The ligation was performed using a vector:insert ratio of 1:1 or 1:2.
- synBX08 gp 140 gene: The strategy for building that gene is depicted in figure 4. RE digestion, DNA fragments purification, ligation as well as direct PCR screening of recombinant colonies were performed according the same procedures described for
  synBX08 gp160 gene. A 1277-bp Nhel/XhoI fragment, obtained from piece3-cl27, as well as a 647-bp XhoI/BamHI fragment, obtained from piece 8-gp140-cl2, were agarose gel purified

and then ligated into the Nhel/BamHI sites of WRG7079. The ligation was performed using a vector:insert ratio of 1:1 or 1:2. For construction of the synthetic BX08 gp140, piece4 was mutated to Piece4gp140 whereby a stop codon was introduced just before the *TMD* followed by a BamHI cloning site. A new piece8gp140 was constructed composed of snut1265/1465/piece4gp140.

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synBX08 gp140/uncleaved gene: RE digestion, DNA fragments purification, ligation as well as direct PCR screening of recombinant colonies are performed according the same procedures described for synBX08 gp160 gene. A 1277-bp Nhel/Xhol fragment, obtained
from piece3-cl27, as well as a 800-bp Xhol/BamHI fragment, obtained from piece 8-gp140/uncleaved, are agarose gel purified and then ligated into the Nhel/BamHI WRG7079 sites. The ligation was performed using a vector:insert ratio of 1:1 or 1:2.

synBX08 gp 120 gene: The strategy for building that piece is depicted in figure 3. RE

digestion, DNA fragments purification, ligation as well as direct PCR screening of recombinant colonies were performed according the same procedures described for synBX08 gp160 gene. A 1277-bp Nhel/Xhol fragment, obtained from piece3-cl27, as well as a 206-bp Xhol/BamHI fragment, obtained from 1265-Xhol-gp120-clM5, were agarose gel purified and then ligated into the Nhel/BamHI sites of WRG7079. The ligation was performed using a vector:insert ratio of 1:1 or 1:2. For construction of the synthetic BX08 gp120, snut 1265 was mutated to S<sub>1265gp120</sub> to introduce a stop codon at the gp120/gp41 cleavage site followed by a BamH1 cloning site.

The gp160, gp150, gp140, and gp120 genes are cloned (Nhel-BamHI) and maintained in an eucaryotic expression vectors containing a CMV promotor and a tPA leader, but other expression vectors may be chosen based on other criteria e.g. antibiotic resistance selection, other leader sequences like CD5 etc, presence or not of immune stimulatory sequences etc.

SynBX08 gp41 gene: The strategy for building that gene is depicted in figure 20. RE
digestion, DNA fragments purification, ligation as well as direct PCR screening of recombinant colonies were performed according the same procedures described for synBX08 gp160 gene. Piece 8-gp41 is ligated with snut 2060-SacII-klon21 and piece 5 as already decribed for the construction of piece 7, creating piece 7-gp41 (P<sub>7gp41</sub>). Subsequently the piece 7-gp41 containing the entire gp41 gene will be cloned in WRG7079 using the Nhel and BamHI sites.

#### Example 6a: High expression by codon optimization

To analyse the expression of glycoproteins from the wild type and synthetic BX08 envelope genes RIPA was performed on transfected mammalian cell lines. Both cell membrane associated and secreted HIV-1 glycoproteins from the cell supernatants were assayed. The 5 envelope plasmids were transfected into the human embryonic kidney cell line 293 (ATCC, Rockville, MD) or the mouse P815 (H-2D<sup>d</sup>) cell line using calcium phosphate (CellPhect Transfection kit, Pharmacia). For radio immune precipitation assay (RIPA), transfected cells were incubated overnight, washed twice and incubated for 1 hour with DMEM lacking cysteine and methionine (Gibco). Then the medium was replaced with medium containing 50 10 μCi per ml of [35S] cysteine and 50 μCi/ml of [35S] methionine (Amersham Int., Amersham. UK) and incubation continued overnight. Cells were centrifuged, washed twice with HBSS and lysed in 1 ml ice-cold RIPA buffer (10 mM Tris, pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 50 mM EDTA, 1% Nonidet P-40, 0.5% sodiumdeoxycholate) to detect membrane bound Env glycoproteins. The cell lysates were centrifuged for 15 min. at 100,000 x g to remove any undissolved particles 15 and 100 μl immune precipitated with protein A-sepharose coupled human polyclonal IgG anti-HIV antibodies (Nielsen et al., 1987). For analysis of secreted Enviglycoproteins 500 ul of the 5 ml supernatants from transfected cells were incubated with protein A-sepharose coupled human polyclonal IgG anti-HIV antibodies. After washing three times in cold RIPA buffer and once in PBS, the immuno precipitates were boiled for 4 min. in 0.05 M Tris-HCl. 20 pH 6.8, 2% SDS, 10% 2-mercaptoethanol, 10% sucrose, 0.01% bromophenol blue and subjected to SDS PAGE (Vinner et al., 1999). Electrophoresis was carried out at 80 mV for 1 hour in the stacking gel containing 10% acrylamide, and at 30 mV for 18 hours in the separating gradient gel containing 5-15% acrylamide. Gels were fixed in 30% ethanol-10% acetic acid for 1 hour, soaked for 30 min. in En3Hance (Dupont #NEF 981), washed 2 ×15 25 min. in distilled water, dried and autoradiography performed on Kodak XAR-5 film. Transfection of human 293 cells with the syn.gp120<sub>BX08</sub> and syn.gp140<sub>BX08</sub> genes, respectively, resulted in high amounts of only secreted HIV-1 glycoproteins (Fig. 22a, lane 9 and 8). Thus, the synthetic gene in the absence of rev expresses the HIV-1 surface glycoprotein of the expected size which is recognised by human anti-HIV-1 antisera. The 30 expression of BX08 gp120 was Rev independent and with roughly the same high amount of gp120 from the syn.gp120MN gene (Fig. 22a, lane 2). Fig. 22a, lane 6 and lane 7 shows the expression of only membrane bound gp160 and gp150 from 293 cells transfected with syn.gp160<sub>BX08</sub> and syn.gp150<sub>BX08</sub> plasmids, respectively. Also transfection with wt.gp160<sub>BX08</sub> plasmid resulted in a significant expression of membrane bound gp160 despite the absence 35 of Rev (Fig. 22a, lane 3). Co-transfection with equimolar amounts of Rev encoding plasmid seemed to increase this expression somewhat (Fig. 22a, lane 4). This is seen despite the

lower transfection effectivity using two plasmids and the use of only half the amount of wt.gp160<sub>BX08</sub> DNA when combined with pRev. The amounts of secreted HIV-1 glycoproteins from gp120 and gp141 accumulating in the cell supernatants seemed higher than the amounts of cell associated glycoproteins at the time of harvesting of the cells. Interestingly, the amounts of gp160 produced from the "humanized" gene were about equal to the amounts produced by the wt.gp160<sub>BX08</sub> + pRev genes, respectively (Fig. 22a, lane 4 and 6). The processing of gp160, gp150 and gp140 into gp120 plus a gp41, or fractions of gp41, produced from wild type or synthetic genes in the 293 cell-line did not function well under these experimental conditions. Same phenomenon was seen in RIPA from 293-CD4 cells and HeLa-CD4 cells infected by HIV-1<sub>MN</sub> (Vinner et al., 19999). Because of the absence of CCR5 these cell-lines could, however, not be infected by HIV-1 strain BX08.

# Example 6b: Radio immuno precipitation assay (RIPA) of synthetic BX08 transfected cells showing expression of glycoproteins from synthetic BX08 env plasmids

- 15 The synthetic envelope plasmid DNA were transfected into the human embryonic kidney cell line 293 (ATCC, Rockville, MD) using calcium phosphate (CellPhect Transfection kit, Pharmacia). For immune precipitation analysis, transfected 293 cells were treated and analysed according to the method described in example 6a.
- To analyse expression from these genes, an SDS-PAGE of the <sup>35</sup>S-labelled HIV-1
  20 envelopes, immune precipitated from the transfected cells is shown in figure 22b. Both cellmembrane associated and secreted HIV-1 envelope glycoproteins in the cell supernatants
  were assayed. Transfection of 293 cells with the synthetic BX08 gene encoding gp120
  (syn.gp120BX08) in lane 4, and syn.gp140BX08 (lane 5) that did not contain *rev* encoding
  regions, resulted in abundant amounts of HIV-1 gp120. Thus, the expressions were Rev
- independent and expressed in roughly same high amounts as the syn.gp120MN and syn.gp160MN genes (lane 3 and 2, respectively) already showed by our group and others to be markedly increased in comparisson with HIV MN wild type genes including *rev* (Vinner et al 1999).
- Transfection with syn.gp150 plasmid (lanes 7 and 8) resulted in significant expression of membrane associated gp120 and low detactable amounts of truncated form of gp41 (cell pellet in lane 7) with no detectable HIV-1 glycoprotein in the cell supernatant lane 8. It is concluded that the synthetic BX08 genes expres the envelope glycoproteins of expected size which are recognised by human anti-HIV-1 antiserum.

## **Exampel 6C FACS**

To quantitate the surface expression of HIV glycoproteins from the wild type and synthetic BX08 envelope genes transfection experiments were done and cell surface expression examined by FACS (flow cytometer).

10 μg of the BX08 envelope plasmid (wild type BX08gp160 or synBX08gp160) plus 10 μg of an irrelevant carrier plasmid pBluescript were used to transfect a 80-90% confluent layer of 293 cells in tissue culture wells (25 cm²) using the CellPect kit (Pharmacia). After 48 hours cells were Versene treated, washed and incubated with a mouse monoclonal IgG antibodies to HIV gp120 (NEA-9301, NEN™, Life-Science Products Inc., Boston) for time 30 min. on wet ice followed by washing in PBS, 3% FCS and incubation with Phyto-Erytrin (PE) labelled rat anti-mouse IgG1 (Cat #346270, Becton Dickinson) according to the manufacture. After washing the cells were fixed in PBS, 1% paraformaldehyd, 3% FCS, and analysed on a FACS (FACScan, Becton-Dicknsson). Table 5 show in duplicate expression of BX08 gp160 from 11 % of the cells transfected with wild type BX08 (number 1 and 2) compared to the 48 % of cells expression BX08 glycoprotein when transfected with the synthetic gene (number 3 and 4). Thus, a several fold higher expression is obtained using the synthetic BX08 gene.

Table 5 FACS analysis of 293 cells transfected with synBX08gp160 (No 1 and 2) and wt.gp16+BX08 (No3 and 4) and stained with monoclonal antibodies to surface expressed HIV glycoproteins. A higher expression was obtained with the synthetic gene (mean 48%) as compared to the wild type gene (mean 11 %).

	50 ul	45 ul	Α	В	С	C - A	C - B
1	syn.gp160BX08 +	pBluescript SK+	2,57	2,85	36,91	34,34	34,06
2	syn.gp160BX08 +	pBluescript SK+	2,83	2,14	58,42	55,59	56,28
3	wt.gp160BX08 +	pBluescript SK+	1,95	1,52	7,51	5,56	5,99
4	wt.gp160BX08 +	pBluescript SK+	2,97	1,42	14,41	11,44	12,99

A: No primary antibody added (control for unspecific secondary Ab binding)

25 B: Neither Primary Ab nor Secondary Ab added (autoflouroscense control)

C: Primary Ab and secondary Ab added.

## Example 6D Analyses of the surface expression and biological functionality

To analyse the surface expression and biological functionality from the wild type and synthetic BX08 envelope genes transfection experiments were done and cell fusion microscopically studied using HIV envelope receptor expressing cells.

10 μg of the BX08 envelope plasmid (wt.BX08gp160 or syn.BX08gp160 or empty WRG7079 vector plasmid) plus 5 μg of a plasmid (pEGFP, Clonetech) expressing green fluorescent protein (GFP) were transfected into 2 x 10<sup>6</sup> adherent U87.CD4.CCR5 cells (NIH AIDS Res. & Reference program, catalog #4035) stabely expressing CD4 and CCR5, using the CellPhect transfection kit (Pharmacia). After 48 hours the cells were examined by microscopy and photographed (Fig 22c).

Fig 22c panel A show the negative control (empty WRG7079 plus pGFP) giving no syncytia. Panel B show cells transfected with the wild type BX08 gp160 plasmid where cell-to-cell fusion (syncytia) is seen. Panel C show cells transfected with the same amounts of synBX08gp160 plasmid and demonstrating a much higher degree of cell-cell fusion. In fact most or all of the cells in the culture plate were fused at this time. This experiment show surface expression of functional HIV gp160 with tropism to the CCR5 receptor, as well as a much higher expression and biological activity from the synthetic BX08 gene as compared to the wild type equivalent.

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## Example 7: Gene inoculation of mice for immunization

6-7 weeks old female BALB/c mice were purchased from Bomholdtgaard, Denmak.

Microbiological status was conventional and the mice were maintained in groups of 4/5 per cage with food and water ad libitum and artificially lighted 12 hours per day. Acclimatization period was 2 days. Mice were anaesthetized with 0.2 ml i.p. of rohypnol:stesolid (1:3, v/v) and DNA inoculated by either i.m. injection of 50 μl 2 mg/ml of plasmid DNA in each tibia anterior muscle at week 0, 9, and 15 and terminated week 18; or gene gun inoculated on shaved abdominal skin using plasmid coated gold particles (0.95 μm particles, 2 μg DNA/mg gold, 0.5 mg gold/shot, 50-71% coating efficiency) with the hand held Helios® gene gun device (BioRad) employing compressed (400 psi) Helium as the particle motive force. Mice were gene gun vaccinated at week 0, 3, 6, 9, 15, and terminated week 18.

#### Example 8: Serological assays

Western blotting. The induction of a humoral response to gp120 and gp41 antigens by in vivo expression of the encoded glycoproteins from the synthetic BX08 genes was examined by western immuno blotting (Figure 27). Mouse antisera (1:40) were evaluated in western blotting using the commercial HIV BLOT 2.2 strips (Genelabs Diagnostic). The conjugate was a 1:200 dilution of the alkaline phosphatase-conjugated rabbit anti-mouse IgG (Dakopatts, Glostrup, Denmark). Buffers, incubation condition and colour development were

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used according to the manufacturer. In these western blotting strips the gp160 band from HIV-1 IIIB contain of an oligomeric form of gp41 in a higher concentration than the monomeric gp41 band on the strip (Genelabs Diagnostic). HIV-1<sub>IIIB</sub> lysate is used in these commercial strips where the gp160 band is composed by addition of tetrameric gp41.All preimmune sera tested negative in western blotting. Mice inoculated with syn.gp120<sub>BX08</sub> showed antibody response to the heterologous gp120 of HIV-1 IIIB. Inclusion of the extracellular part of gp41 in the gene syn.gp140<sub>BX08</sub> induced antibody reaction to both gp120 and gp41 in all mice. This confirms the *in vivo* expression of BX08 gp120 and the extracellular part of gp41. DNA vaccination with syn.gp160<sub>BX08</sub> encoding the membrane bound glycoprotein induced antibodies to gp120 and gp41 in 50% and 64% of the mice, respectively. DNA vaccination with syn.gp150<sub>BX08</sub> induced detectable antibodies to gp120 and gp41 in 41% and 53%, respectively. Induction of different levels of antibodies could explain the difference in numbers of positive reactive mice sera in this qualitative western blotting.

- 15 *ELISA*. Mouse anti HIV-1 gp120 antibodies were measured by indirect ELISA. Briefly, wells of polystyrene plates Maxisorb (Nunc) were coated for 2 days at room temperature with HIV-1 IIIB recombinant gp120 (Intracel) at 0.2 μg/100 μl of carbonate buffer, pH 9.6. Before use the plates were blocked 1 hour at room temperature with 150 μl/well of washing buffer (PBS, 0.5 M NaCl, 1% Triton-X-100) plus 2% BSA and 2% skimmilk powder. After 3 x 1 min.
- 20 washings, mouse plasma was added at 100 μl/well diluted in blocking buffer and ELISA plates incubated for 90 min. at room temperature using a microtiter plate shaker. As standard curve we used a mouse monoclonal antibody to a conserved part of gp120 between V5-C5 (MRDNWRSELYKY) (#NEA-9301, NEN™ Life Science Products, Inc., Boston, MA). As calibration control included on each plate we used a plasma pool from 10 mice vaccinated
- with BX08 gp120. Plates were again washed 5 x 1 min. and incubated 1 hour at room temperature with 100 μl/well of HRP-conjugated rabbit anti-mouse IgG (#P260, Dakopatts, Glostrup, Denmark) diluted 1:1000 in blocking buffer. Colour was developed with 100 μl/well of peroxidase enzyme substrate consisting of 4 mg of *o*-phenylenediamine in 11 ml water plus 4 μl hydrogen peroxide (30%, w/w). The enzyme reaction was terminated after 30 min.
- 30 by 150 μl/well of 1M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The optical density (OD) of wells was measured at 492 nm using a microplate photometer (Molecular Devices, Biotech-Line, Denmark). Anti-HIV-gp120 IgG titers were expressed as the reciprocal plasma dilution resulting in an OD<sub>492nm</sub> value of 0.500. Mouse anti-HIV-1 BX08 antibodies were also measured by indirect peptide ELISAs as described above using a BX08 V3 peptide (SIHIGPGRAFYTTGD) (Schafer, Copenhagen,

35 Denmark).

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The IgG antibody response to HIV-1<sub>IIIB</sub> rgp120 quantitated by ELISA is seen in Fig. 28 and Fig. 29. No background activity was observed in preimmune sera or in sera from 4 mice immunized with empty WRG7079 vector in parallel with the BX08 genes. All mice inoculated with the synthetic BX08 genes either by gene gun or by i.m. injection responded and showed 5 a persistent and high titered (about 100-10,000) IgG response to rgp120 as exemplified in Fig. 4. When comparing the median titers for groups of mice (Fig. 29) a moderate antibody response was observed with the wt.gp160<sub>BX08</sub>. Intramuscular and gene gun immunization with a mixture of wt.gp160<sub>BX08</sub> plasmid plus Rev encoding plasmid did not increase this antibody response. This was found even when both plasmids were coated onto the same 10 gold particles to ensure co-transfection of single target cells. However, to ensure inoculation of equal amounts of total DNA only half of the amount of wt.BX08 plasmid was used when mixing with pRev which may have contributed to the lower antibody response when pRev was included. A 5-fold improvement of the antibody response was obtained using the  $syn.gp160_{BX08}$  gene. This antibody response seemed further improved using the 15 syn.gp150<sub>BX08</sub> gene where the cytoplasmic internalization signals were eliminated but only using gene gun inoculation. For both the gene gun inoculation of skin and i.m injection the highest antibody titers to rgp120 were induced by genes encoding secreted gp120/gp140 alycoproteins versus membrane bound gp150/gp160 glycoproteins, respectively. In general, equal antibody and ELISA titers to rgp120 were obtained using gene gun and i.m. injection of 20 the BX08 vaccine genes.

#### Example 9: Neutralization assay

Mouse plasma was diluted in culture medium (RPMI-1640 medium (Gibco) supplemented with antibiotics (Gibco), Nystatin (Gibco) and 10% FCS (Bodinco)) and heat inactivated at 60°C for 30 min. Of the HIV-1 strain BX08 (50 TCID<sub>50</sub> per ml propagated in PBMC) 250 μl was incubated for 1 hour at room temperature with 250 μl dilution of mouse serum (four five-fold dilutions of mouse serum, final dilutions 1:20 to 1:2500). After incubation 1 × 10<sup>6</sup> PBMC in 500 μl culture medium was added to the virus-serum mixture and incubated overnight at 37°C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. Subsequently, eight replicates of 10<sup>5</sup> PBMC in 200 μl culture medium were cultured in 96-well culture plates (Nunc) at 37°C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. After seven days in culture the concentration of HIV antigen in the culture supernatant was quantitated using HIV antigen detection ELISA (Nielsen et al., 1987).

This ELISA is performed using human IgG, purified from high titered patient sera, both as capture antibody and biotin-linked as detecting antibody. In brief, anti-HIV-capture IgG diluted 1:4000 in PBS, 100 µl/well, are coated onto Immunoplates (Nunc) overnight at 4°C. After washing five times in washing buffer 100 µl of supernatants are applied and incubated overnight

at 4°C. Plates are washed 5 times before incubation with 100 μl HIV-IgG conjugated with biotin diluted 1:1000 in dilution buffer, plus 10% HIV-1 sero-negative human plasma for 3 hours at room temperature. Five times 1 min. washing in washing buffer are followed by 30 min. incubation with 100 μl of 1:1000 avidine-peroxidase (Dako P347 diluted in dilution buffer). Six 5 times 1 min. washings, 5 in washing buffer and the last one are done in dH<sub>2</sub>O before colour is developed with 100 µl of peroxidase enzyme substrate consisting of 4 mg of OPD in 11 ml water plus 4  $\mu$ l hydrogen peroxide (30 %, w/w). The enzyme reaction is terminated after 30 minutes by additional 150 µl of 1M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.

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The HIV antigen concentration in cultures, preincubated with mouse serum, was expressed 10 relatively to cultures without mouse serum (culture medium), and the percentage inhibitions of the different dilutions of mouse serum were calculated. The 50% inhibitory concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>) for each mouse serum was determined by interpolation from the plots of percent inhibition versus the dilution of serum, and the neutralizing titer of the serum was expressed as the reciprocal value of the IC50. In each set-up a human serum pool known to neutralise 15 other HIV-1 strains was included in the same dilutions as the mouse serum as a calibratin control. For assay of neutralization of the heterologous SHIV89.6P the MT-2-cell-killing format was used (Crawford et al., 1999). The assay stock of SHIV89.6P was grown in human PBMC.

The neutralizing IC<sub>50</sub> antibody titers of plasma pools from 10 mice from each group 20 were measured at different time points (week 0, 9, and 18). A positive background in some preimmune sera and thus in all week 0 serum pools was noted even after dilution and heat inactivation that was found earlier to lower this background. In general the neutralizing titers to BX08 virus of such serum pools were transient and low ranging from 1:6-1:150 above background (data not shown). A possible cross-neutralization reaction to a heterologous, 25 primary HIV-1 envelope was tested using the SHIV89.6P which is relevant in macaque models of AIDS and serum pools from mice DNA immunized i.m. with syn.gp140<sub>BX08</sub>. Preimmune serum had a titer of 1:37, which is indicative of a slightly positive background, whereas the 18 week p.i. serum had a positive neutralizing titer of 1:254 above background.

#### 30 Example 10: CTL assay

The cellular immune response in mice following gene gun or i.m. genetic immunization with the different vaccine plasmids were examined (Fig. 26). Spleen was removed aseptically and gently homogenised to single cell suspension, washed 3 times in RPMI-1640 supplemented with 10% FCS and resuspended to a final concentration of 5 x 10<sup>7</sup> cell/ml. The cells were 35 then incubated 5 days with mitomycin-C treated (50 μg/ml for 1 hour) mouse P815 (H-2D<sup>d</sup>)

stimulator cells at a ratio of 10:1 in medium supplemented with 5 x 10<sup>-5</sup> M  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol. For assay of CTL response to HIV-1 BX08, P815 stimulator cells and target cells were pulsed with 20  $\mu$ g/ml of the HIV-1 BX08 V3 peptide containing a conserved murine H-2D<sup>d</sup> restricted CTL epitope (IGPGRAFYTT) (Lapham et al., 1996). After

- stimulation, splenocytes were washed three times with RPMI-1640 supplemented with 10% FCS and resuspended to a final concentration of 5 x  $10^6$  cells/mI. 100  $\mu$ I of cell suspension was added in triplicate to U-bottom 96-well microtiter plates and a standard 4 hour  $^{51}$ Cr-release assay performed (Marker et al., 1973).
- All synthetic BX08 plasmids induced a high specific CTL response thus confirming the *in vivo* expression and *in vivo* immunogenicity. The highest CTL response was obtained with syn.gp150<sub>BX08</sub> followed by syn.gp120<sub>BX08</sub>-syn.gp140<sub>BX08</sub>, and syn.gp160<sub>BX08</sub>, respectively. Thus, the CTL response induced did not correlate with the antigen being secreted or not. However, i.m. DNA immunization with syn.gp150<sub>BX08</sub> containing six putative CpG motifs induced a higher CTL response than gene gun immunization (Fig. 26). This difference could be explained by the high amount of DNA used in the i.m. injections.
  - The T-lymphocyte cytokine profile of spleen cells after ConA stimulation as well as serum antibody  $lgG_{2a}/lgG_1$  at week 18 were investigated. Neither the  $lFN_{\gamma}/lL$ -4 nor the  $lgG_{2a}/lgG_1$  ratios, which both reflects a Th1-type of immune response, were significantly higher for the i.m. immunized mice when compared with gene gun immunized mice (student t-test and
- 20 Mann-Withney U-test). Thus, the CTL response did not correlate with a certain Th-type of response and the DNA immunization technique did not bias the immune response using synthetic BX08 genes.

# Example 11: Antibody responses to DNA vaccination with synBX08 env plasmid

A relatively low and variable antibody response (1 of 10 mice) was obtained with gene gun inoculation of the syn.gp140BX08 plasmid vaccine starting at week 9, figure 23, right panel. A higher numbers of responders 3/10 with high IgG1 antibody responses at an earlier onset (week 3-9) was obtained with the syn.gp140BX08 plasmid using i.m. injection, left panel. Sera from later time points may show more responders and/or higher titers but are not assayed. However, these results show the induction of an antibody response to the BX08 V3 peptide by DNA vaccination using one of the described synthetic BX08 constructs.

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## Claims

- 1. A method for producing a nucleotide sequence construct comprising the following steps:
- a) obtaining a first nucleotide sequence of an HIV gene from a patient within the first 12 months of infection;
- b) designing a second nucleotide sequence utilising the most frequent codons from mammalian highly expressed proteins to encode the same amino acid sequence as the first nucleotide sequence of a) encodes
- c) redesigning the second nucleotide sequence of b) so that restriction enzyme sites
   surrounds the regions of the nucleotide sequence which encode functional regions of the amino acid sequence and so that selected restriction enzyme sites are removed thereby obtaining a third nucleotide sequence encoding the same amino acid sequence as the first and the second nucleotide sequence of a) and b) encode;
- d) redesigning the third nucleotide sequence of c) so that the terminal snuts contain
   convenient restriction enzyme sites for cloning into an expression vehicle;
  - e) producing the snuts between restriction enzyme sites of c) and terminal snuts of d);
  - f) assembling the snut of step e) to form a nucleotide sequence construct.
  - 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the HIV gene is the gene encoding the envelope.
  - 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the HIV gene encodes one or more Gag proteins.
- 4. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the HIV in step a) is in groupM, O or N
  - 5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the HIV is a group M virus.
- 6. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the HIV is subtype A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, or J.
  - 7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the HIV is subtype B.
- 8. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein the first nucleotide sequenceis obtained by direct cloning.

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9. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the HIV in step a) is isolated with the first 11 months of infection, such a 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, or 0.5 month after infection.

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- 10. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the redesigning in step c) is carried out after the second nucleotide sequence of step b) has been divided into pieces, so that each piece comprises only different restriction enzyme sites.
- 10 11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the second nucleotide sequence of step b) is divided into 9 pieces, or 8, or 7, or 6, or 5, or 4, or 3, or 2 pieces.
  - 12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the second nucleotide sequence of step b) is divided into 3 pieces.

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13. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the second nucleotide sequence of step b) is designed utilising the most frequent codons from human highly expressed proteins to encode the same amino acid sequence as the first nucleotide sequence of step a) encodes.

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- 14. A nucleotide sequence construct obtainable by the method of any of claims 1-13.
- 15. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 14, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence in the first variable region is surrounded by *EcoRV* and *PstI* restriction enzyme sites.
- 16. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claims 14 or 15, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence in the second variable region is surrounded by *Pst*I and *Cla*I restriction enzyme sites.

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17. A nucleotide sequence construct according to any of claims 14-16, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence in the third variable region is surrounded by *Clal* and *Eco*RI restriction enzyme sites.

- 18. A nucleotide sequence construct according to any of claims 14-17, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence in the transmembrane spanning region is surrounded by *HindIII* and *SacII* restriction enzyme sites.
- 5 19. A nucleotide sequence construct according to any of claims 14-18, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence on both sites of the cleavage site is surrounded by *Pst*I and *Xba*I restriction enzyme sites.
- 20. A nucleotide sequence construct in isolated form which has a nucleotide sequence with the general formula (I), (II), (III), or (IV) or subsequences thereof
  - (I) P<sub>1</sub>-S<sub>495Clal</sub>-S<sub>650-720EcoRl</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>1265ap120</sub>

- (II) P<sub>1</sub>-S<sub>495Clal</sub>-S<sub>650-720EcoRI</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>1265Xhol</sub>- S<sub>1465Pstl</sub>- P<sub>4gp140</sub>
- (III) P<sub>1</sub>-S<sub>495Clai</sub>-S<sub>650-720EcoRI</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>1265Xhol</sub>-S<sub>1465Pstl</sub>-P<sub>400150</sub>
- (IV)  $P_1$ - $S_{495Clal}$ - $S_{650-720EcoRl}$ - $P_2$ - $S_{1265Xhol}$ - $S_{1465Pstl}$ - $P_{4gp160}$ - $S_{2060Sacll}$ - $P_5$
- wherein P<sub>1</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:41, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 90% thereto;
  - wherein S<sub>495Clal</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 7, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 95%thereto;
  - wherein S<sub>650-720EcoRI</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 9, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 95% thereto;
- wherein P<sub>2</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 43, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 85% thereto;
  - wherein S<sub>1265gp120</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 19, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 70% thereto;
- 30 wherein S<sub>1265Xhot</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 17, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 80% thereto;
  - wherein S<sub>1465Pstl</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 23, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 90% thereto;

- wherein P<sub>4gp140</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 57, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 85% thereto;
- wherein P<sub>4gp150</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 55, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 85% thereto;
  - wherein P<sub>4gp160</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 53, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 85% thereto:
- wherein S<sub>2060SacII</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 33, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 98% thereto; and
  - wherein P<sub>5</sub> designates the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 59, a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, or a nucleotide sequence with a sequence identity of at least 85% thereto.
  - 21. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20, with the formula (I)
  - (I) P<sub>1</sub>-S<sub>495Clal</sub>-S<sub>650-720EcoRl</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>1265gp120</sub>
- 20 22. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20, with the formula (II)
  - (II) P<sub>1</sub>-S<sub>495Clai</sub>-S<sub>650-720EcoRi</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>1265Xhoi</sub>-S<sub>1465Pstl</sub>-P<sub>4gp140</sub>
  - 23. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20, with the formula (III)
  - (III) P<sub>1</sub>-S<sub>495Clal</sub>-S<sub>650-720EcoRl</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>1265Xhol</sub>-S<sub>1465Pstl</sub>-P<sub>4gp150</sub>

- 24. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20, with the formula (IV)
- (IV) P<sub>1</sub>-S<sub>495Clai</sub>-S<sub>650-720EcoRl</sub>-P<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>1265Xhol</sub>-S<sub>1465Pstl</sub>-P<sub>4qp160</sub>-S<sub>2060Sacll</sub>-P<sub>5</sub>
- 25. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20 consisting essentially of the subsequence P<sub>1</sub>.
  - 26. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20 consisting essentially of the subsequence S<sub>495Clai</sub>.
- 35 27. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20 consisting essentially of the subsequence S<sub>650-720EcoRI</sub>.

- 28. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20 consisting essentially of the subsequence P<sub>2</sub>.
- 5 29. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20 consisting essentially of the subsequence S<sub>1265gp120</sub>.
  - 30. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20 consisting essentially of the subsequence S<sub>1265Xhol</sub>.

- 31. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20 consisting essentially of the subsequence S<sub>1465Pstl</sub>.
- 32. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20 consisting essentially of the
   subsequence P<sub>4gp140</sub>.
  - 33. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20 consisting essentially of the subsequence P<sub>4gp150</sub>.
- 20 34. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20 consisting essentially of the subsequence P<sub>4gp160</sub>.
  - 35. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20 consisting essentially of the subsequence  $S_{2060SacII}$

- 36. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20 consisting essentially of the subsequence P<sub>5</sub>.
- 37. A nucleotide sequence construct with a sequence identity of more than 85% to the30 nucleotide sequence construct in any of claims 20-35.
  - 38. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 37, wherein the sequence identity is more than 90% such as more than 95%, 98%, or 99%.
- 35 39. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 37, wherein the sequence identity is 100%.

- 40. A nucleotide sequence construct according to any of claims 14-39, coding for an HIV envelope or parts thereof with an improved immunogenicity obtained by mutating the nucleotide sequence construct of any of claims 14-39 such that one or more glycosylation sites in the amino acid sequence have been removed.
- 41. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 40 with a mutation at positions
  A307C + C309A and/or A325C + C327G and/or A340C + C342A and/or A385C + C387A
  and/or A469C + C471A or any combination of those.

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- 42. A nucleotide sequence construct according to any of claims 14-41, coding for an HIV envelope or parts thereof with a binding site for the CXCR4 co-receptor in the third variable region.
- 15 43. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 42 with a mutation at positions G865C + A866G.
  - 44. A nucleotide sequence construct according to any of claims 14-43, coding for an HIV envelope or parts thereof, wherein an immunodominant epitope has been modified.

- 45. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 44, wherein an immunodominant epitope in the third variable region has been modified.
- 46. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 45 with a deletion of nucleotides 793-897.
  - 47. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 44, wherein an immunodominant epitope has been removed from gp41.
- 30 48. A nucleotide sequence construct according to any of claims 14-47, coding for an HIV envelope or parts thereof, wherein the cleavage site between gp41 and gp120 is removed.
- 49. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 48 with a mutation at position35 C1423A.

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- 50. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20 consisting essentially of the subsequence P<sub>1</sub>, S<sub>495Clal</sub>, S<sub>650-720EcoRl</sub>, and P<sub>2</sub>.
- 51. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20 consisting essentially of the 5 subsequence S<sub>1265Xhol</sub>, S<sub>1465Pstl</sub>-, and P<sub>4gp140</sub>.
  - 52. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 20 consisting essentially of the subsequence  $S_{1265Xhol}$ ,  $S_{1465Pstl}$ ,  $P_{4gp160}$ ,  $S_{2060Sacll}$ , and  $P_5$ .
- 10 53. A nucleotide sequence construct according to any of claims 14-52, further comprising a nucleotide sequence repeat coding for a functional region of the amino acid sequence.
  - 54. A nucleotide sequence construct according to claim 53, wherein the nucleotide sequence repeat codes for amino acids in the third variable region.
  - 55. A nucleotide sequence construct according to any of claim 14-54, further comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for a T-helper cell epitope containing sequence.
- 56. An expression vehicle selected from a group of viral vectors consisting of simliki forest virus (sfv), adenovirus and Modified Vaccinia Virus Ankara (MVA), further comprising a 20 nucleotide sequence construct according to any of claim 14-55.
  - 57. A method of individualised immunotherapy wherein the virus from a newly diagnosed patient is directly cloned, the envelope is produced with highly expressed codons, inserted into any of the nucleotide sequence constructs of claims 14-55, and administered to the patient.
  - 58. Use of a nucleotide sequence construct according to any of claims 14-55 in medicine.
- 30 59. Use of a nucleotide sequence according to any of claims 14-55 for the manufacture of a vaccine for the prophylactics of infection with HIV in humans.
- 60. Use of a nucleotide sequence according to any of claims 14-55 for the manufacture of a composition for the treatment of an HIV infection in a human within 24 weeks of primary 35 infection.

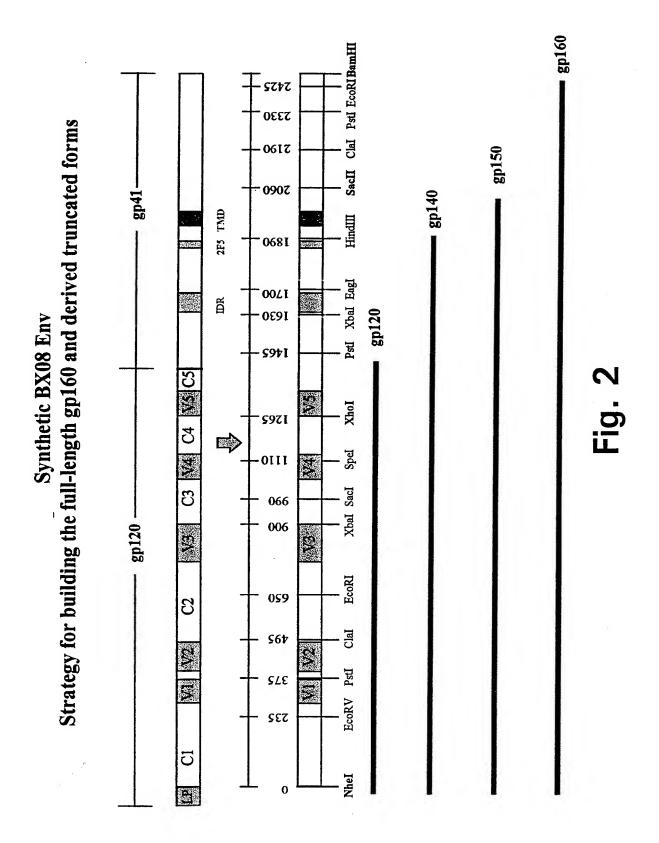
61. Use of the nucleotide sequence according to any of claims 14-55 for the production of a recombinant protein.

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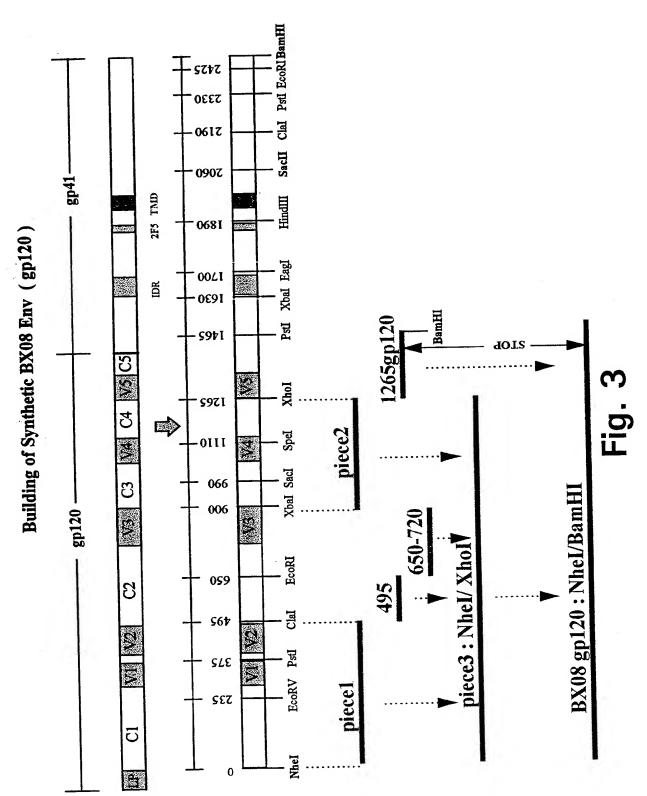
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Aspartic acid	D	Asp	GAC
Cysteine	C	Cys	TGC
Glutamine	Q	Gln	CAG
Glutamic acid	Е	Glu	GAG
Glycine	G	Gly	GGC
Histidine	Н	His	CAC
Isoleucine	I	Ile	ATC
Leucine	L	Leu	CTG
Lysine	K	Lys	AAG
Proline	P	Pro	CCC
Phenylalanine	F	Phe	TTC
Serine	S	Ser	AGC
Threonine	T	Thr	ACC
Tyrosine	Y	Tyr	TAC
Valine	V	Val	GTG

Fig. 1

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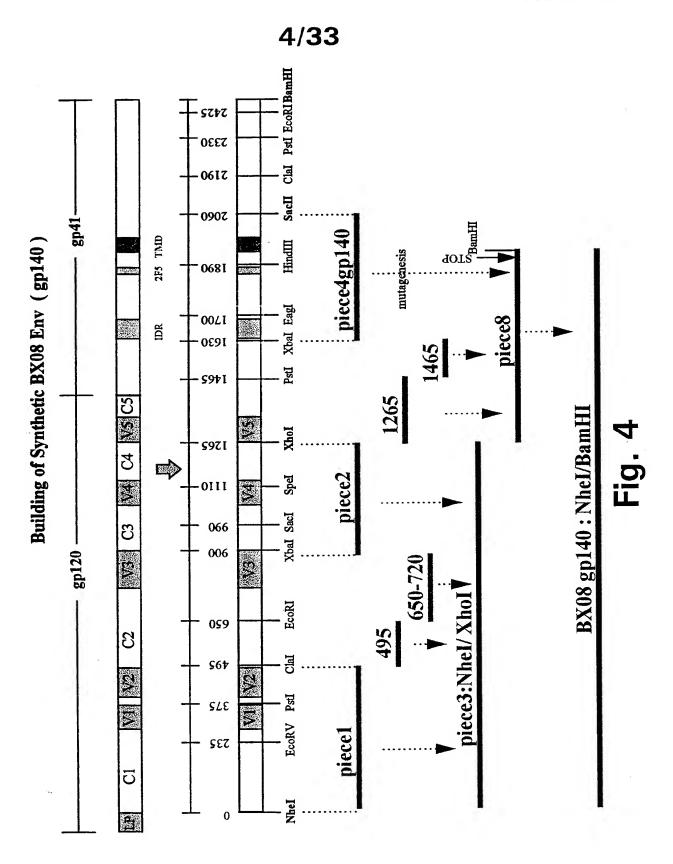
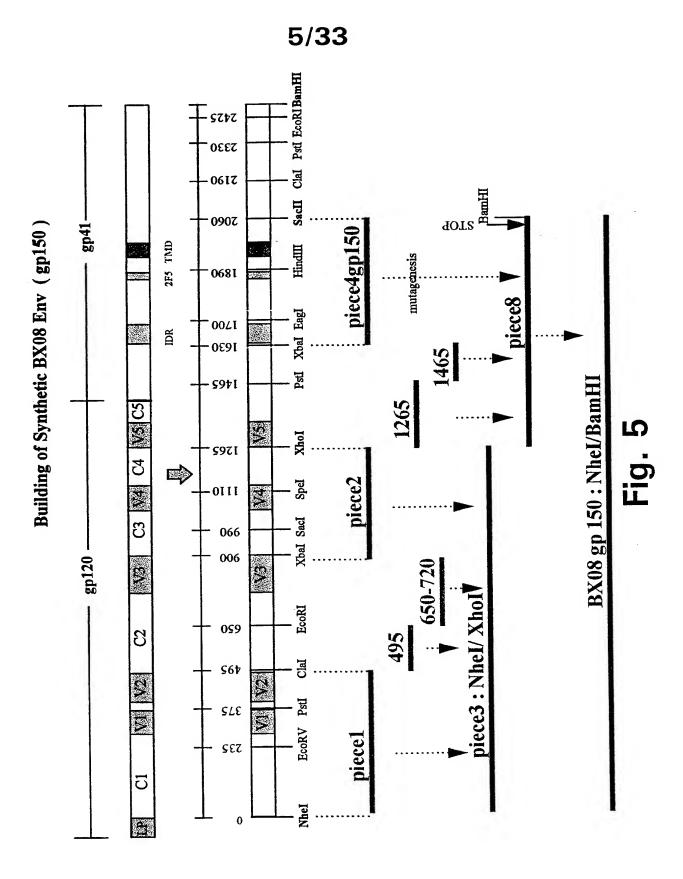


Fig. 4





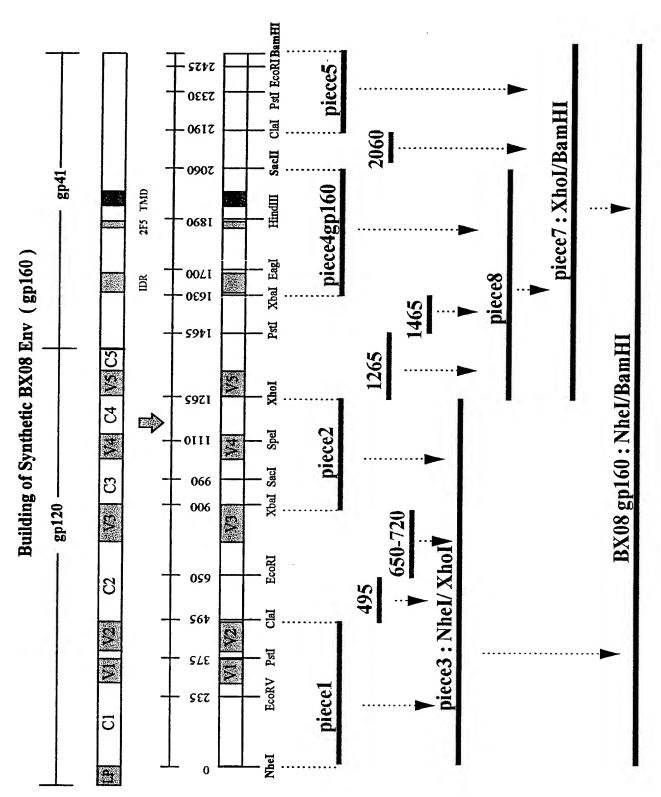
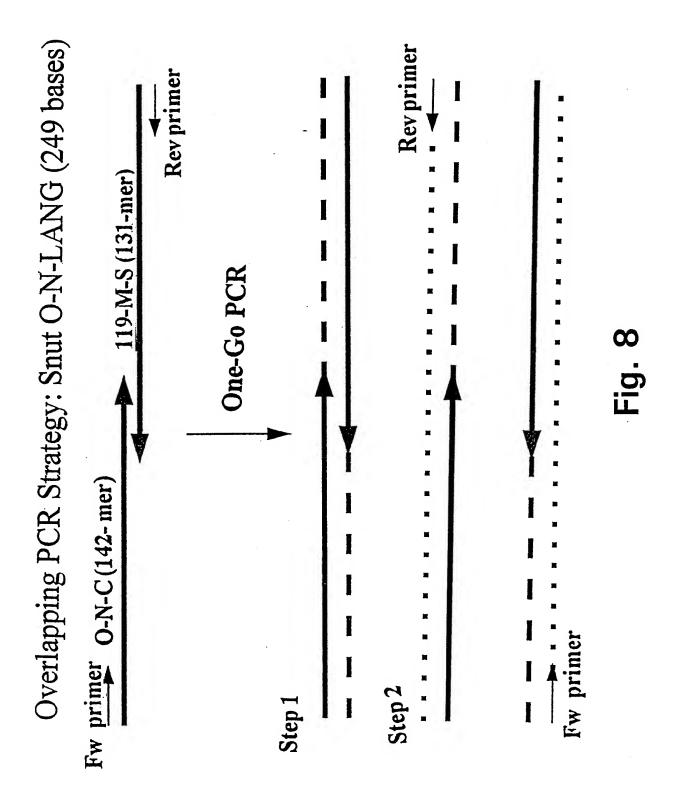


Fig. 6

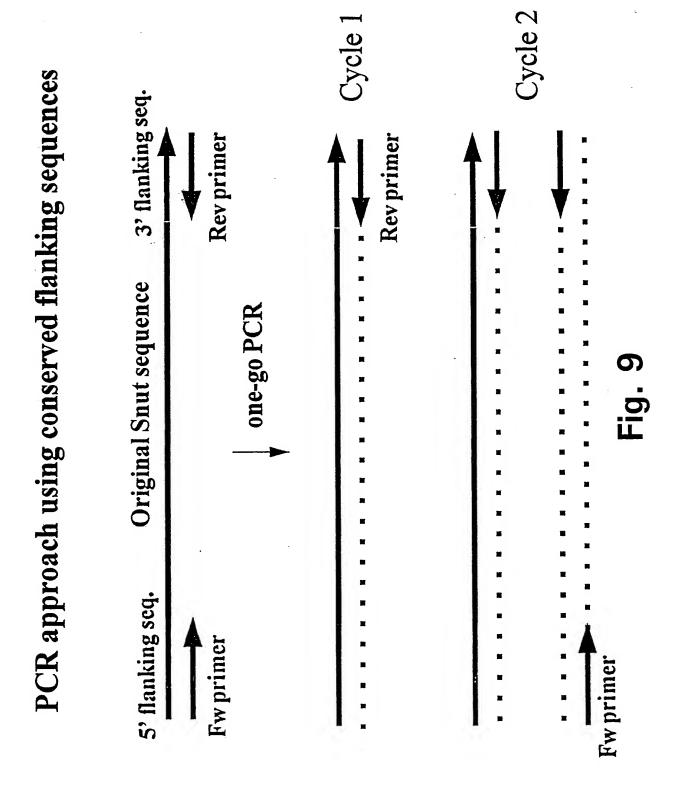
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G	-	GGX	1		GGG	GGA		
Н		CAY						
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K	•	AAR						
L		YTX		TTA	CTT	CTC	CTG	CTA
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N		AAY						
Р	Pro	CCX	CCT	CCC	CCG	CCA		
Q	Gln	CAR	CAG	CAA				
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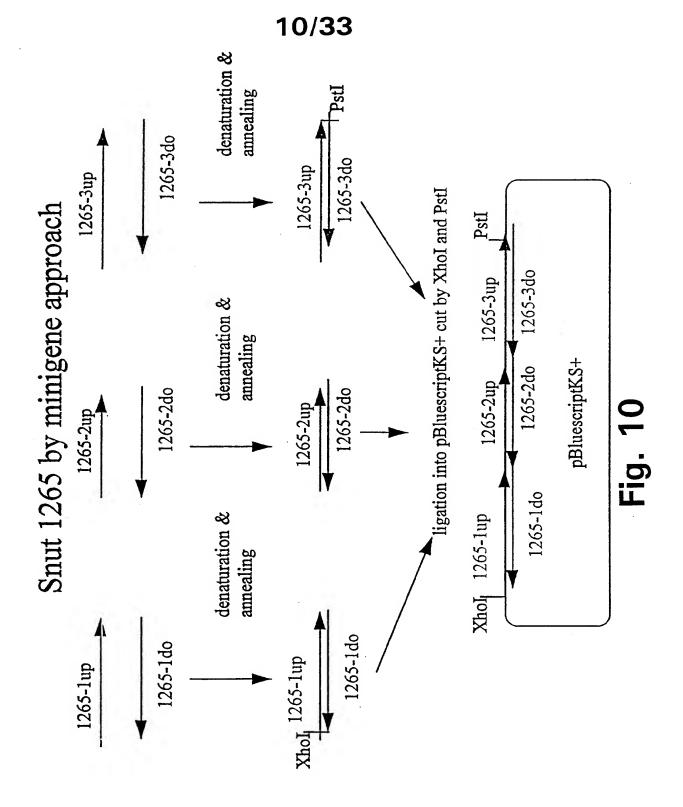
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Fig. 7

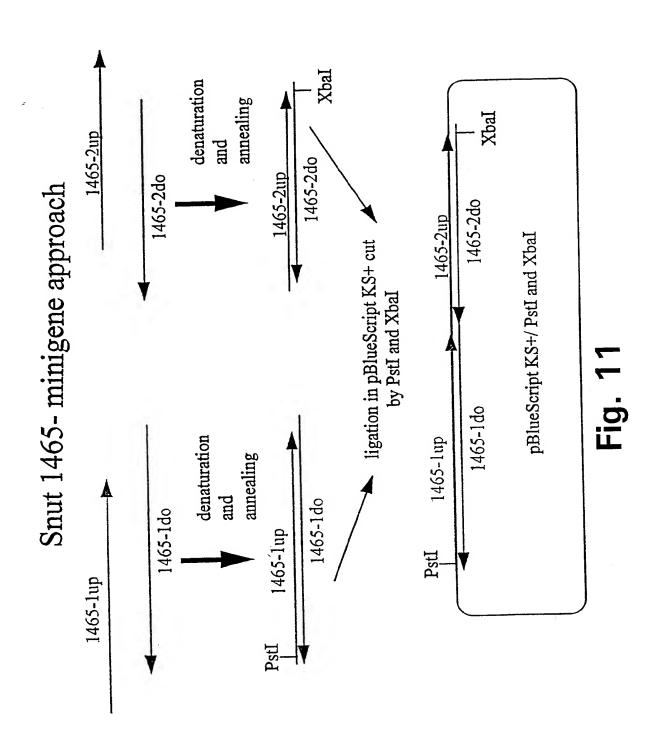


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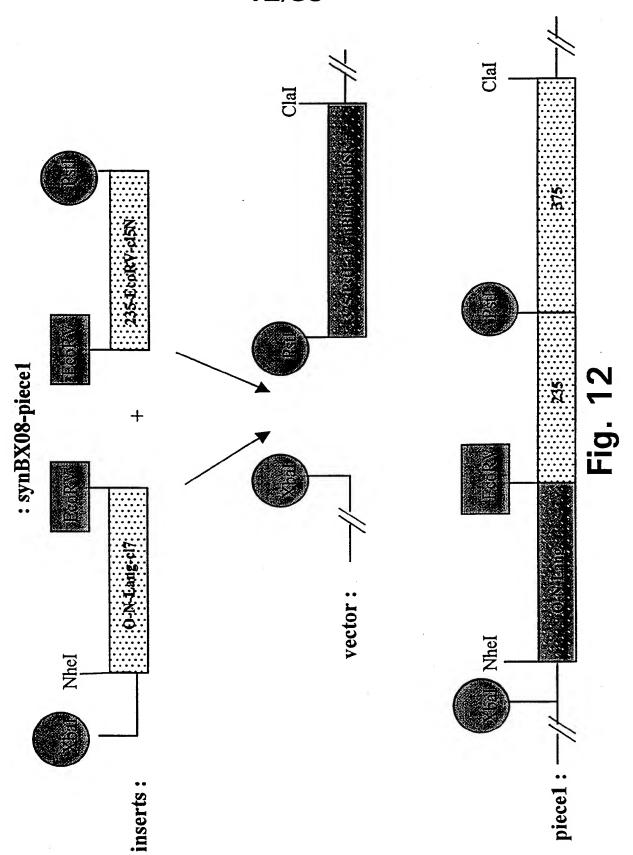


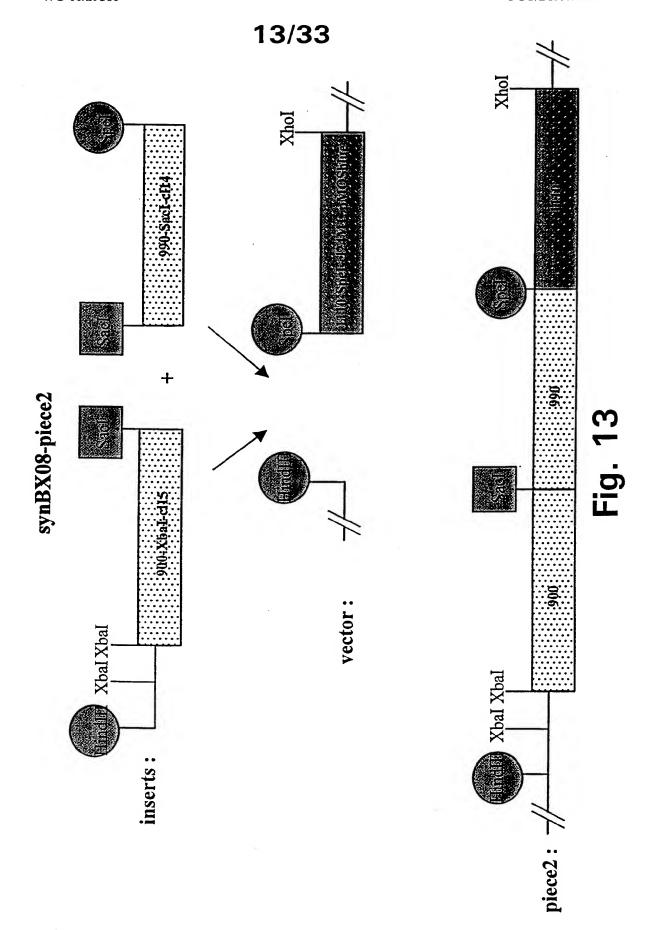


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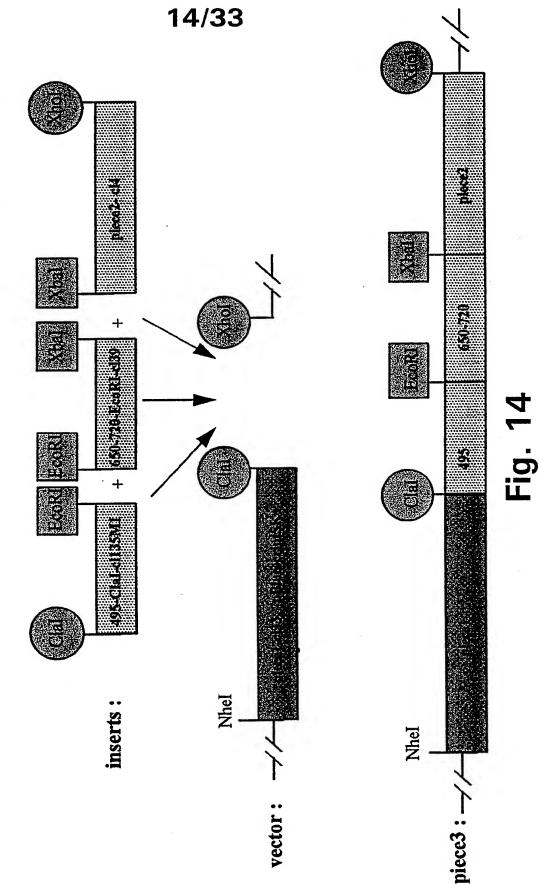


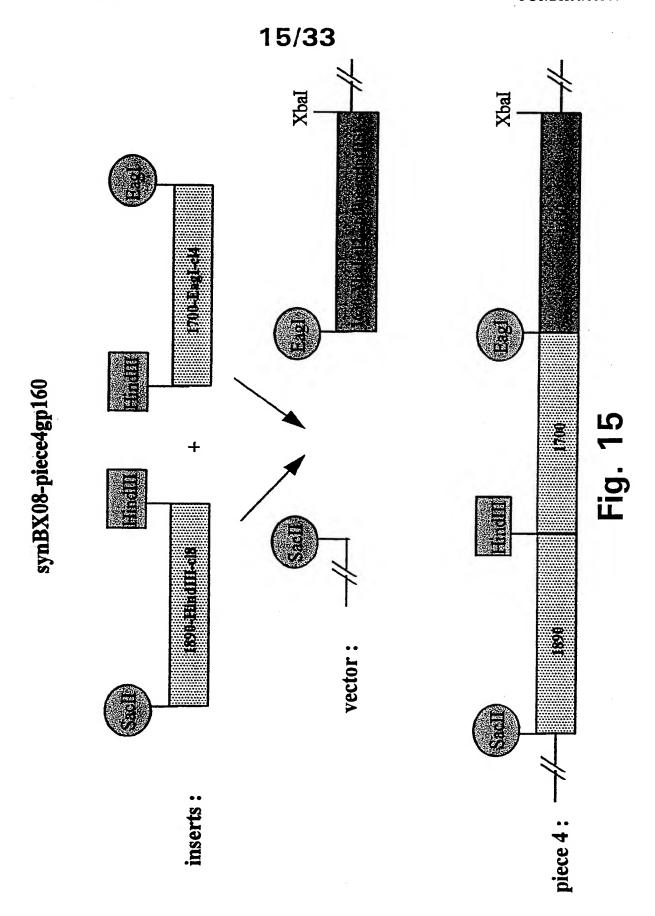
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synBX08-piece3





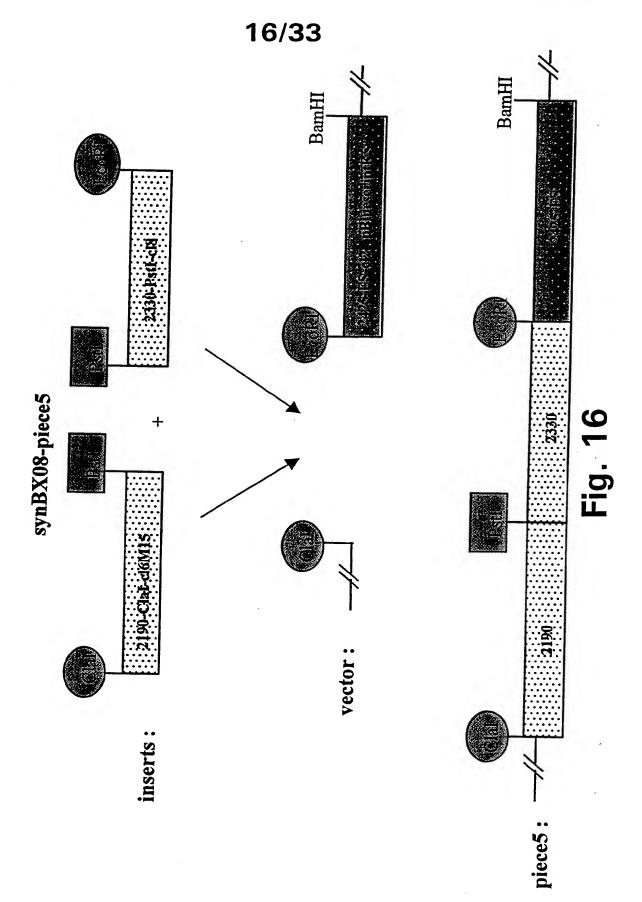
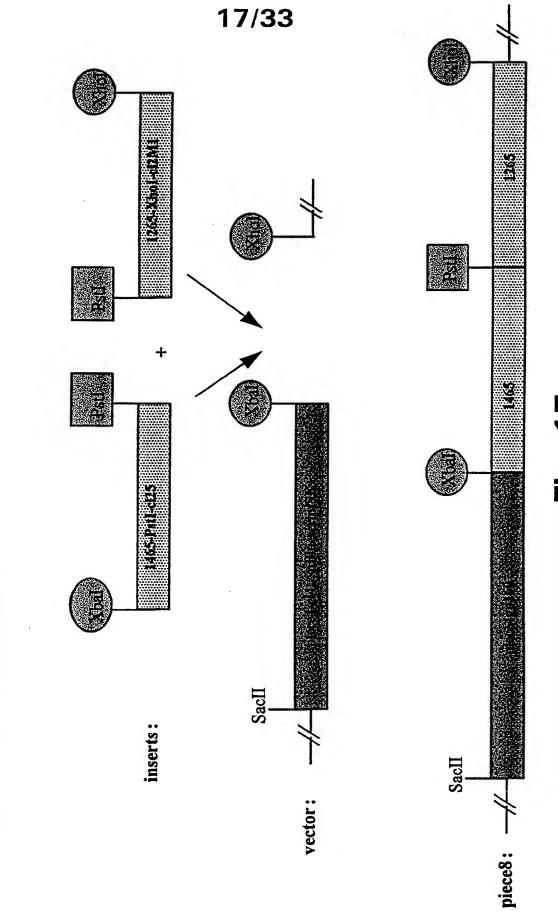
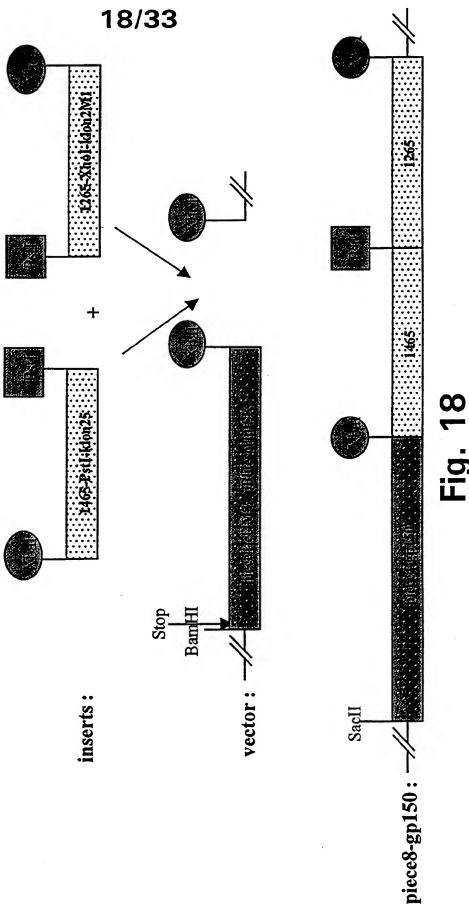


Figure 17: synBX08-piece8gp160



synBX08-piece8-gp150



synBX08-piece8-gp140

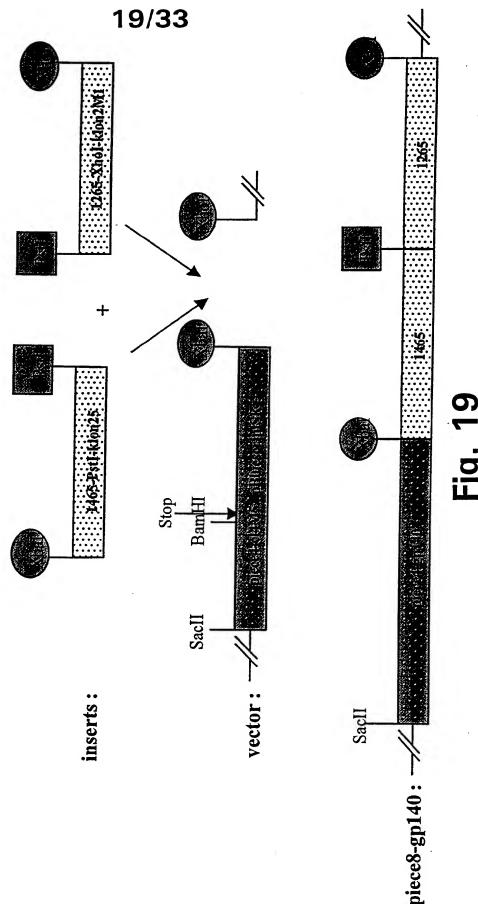
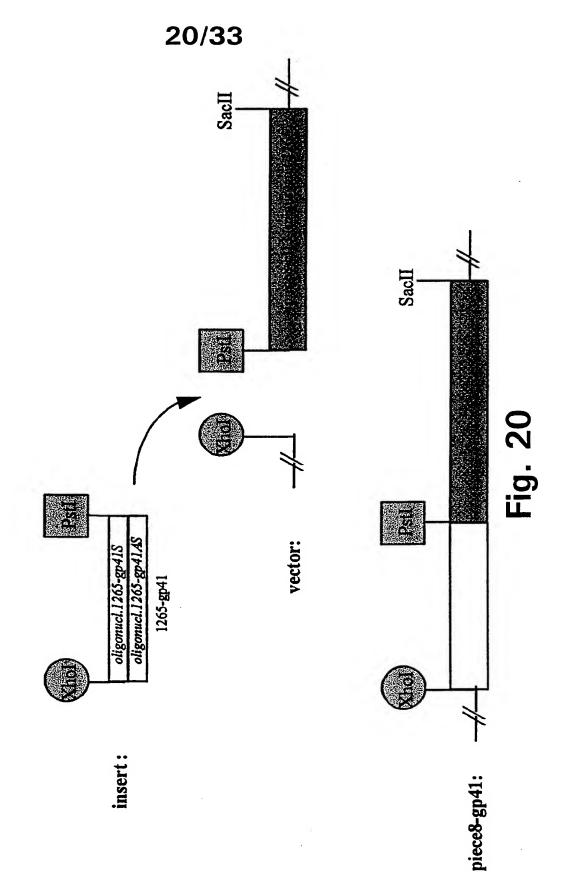
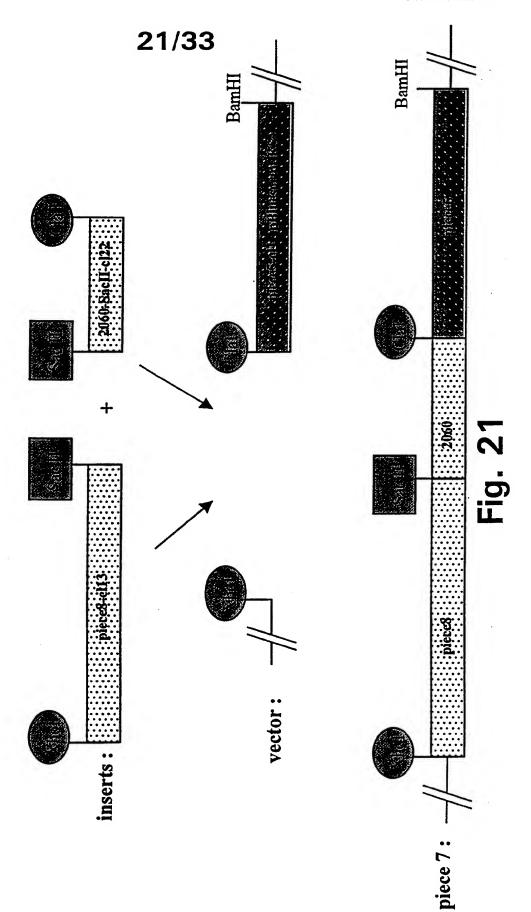


Figure 20: synBX08-piece8-gp41



· synBX08-piece 7



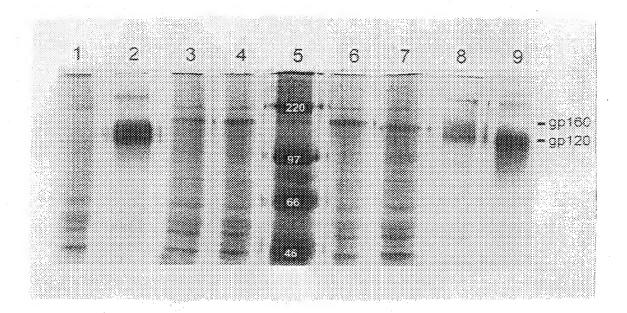


Fig. 22 A

Exposed NO.

(Pallod) 80 x 810 STUB-11 (S. ). (das) 30 x dos l distas; 3 Gallad) 80×40×1d8·uss: ¿ CELLY S'EL DEED JOHNSON :9 (das) 80 x 80 billion dis ; s (das) 80 x 40 c t d8 4 fs ; p (das) AMOZI de Hasie Collod) VINOD I Classifica . 5 Gallon) Show Eng.

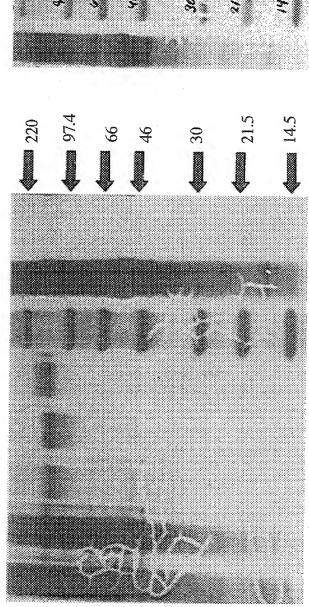


Fig. 22 B

Panel A

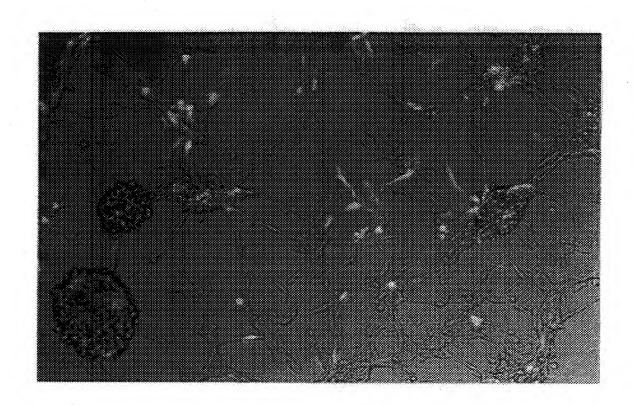


Fig. 22 C

Panel B

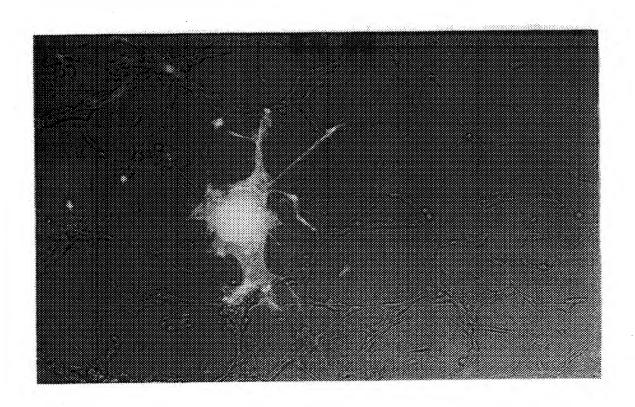


Fig. 22 C

Panel C

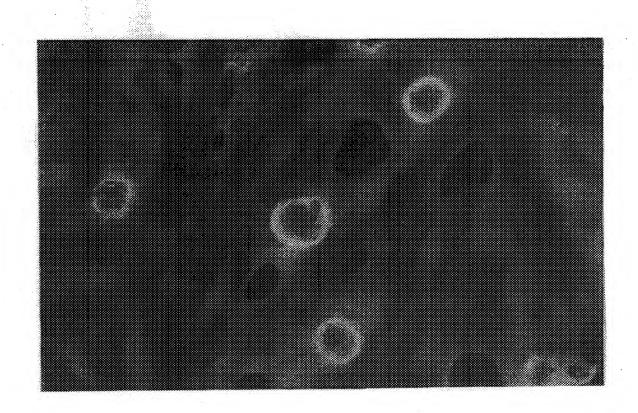
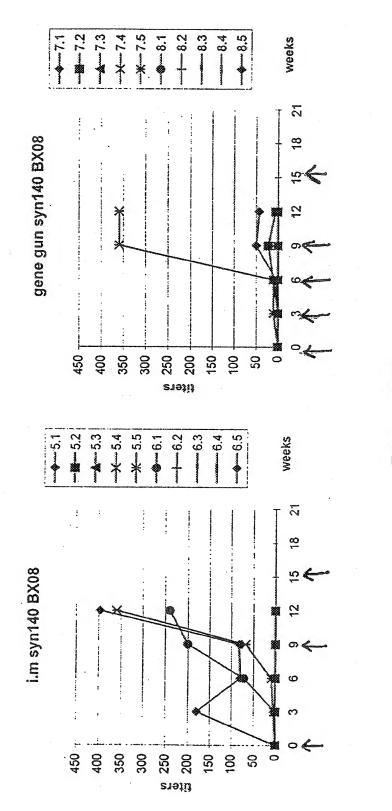


Fig. 22 C

lgG1 anti-V3 BX08 from Balb/c mice DNA vaccinated with envelope genes in WRG7079

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S S S

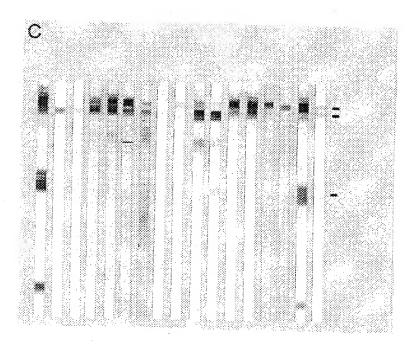
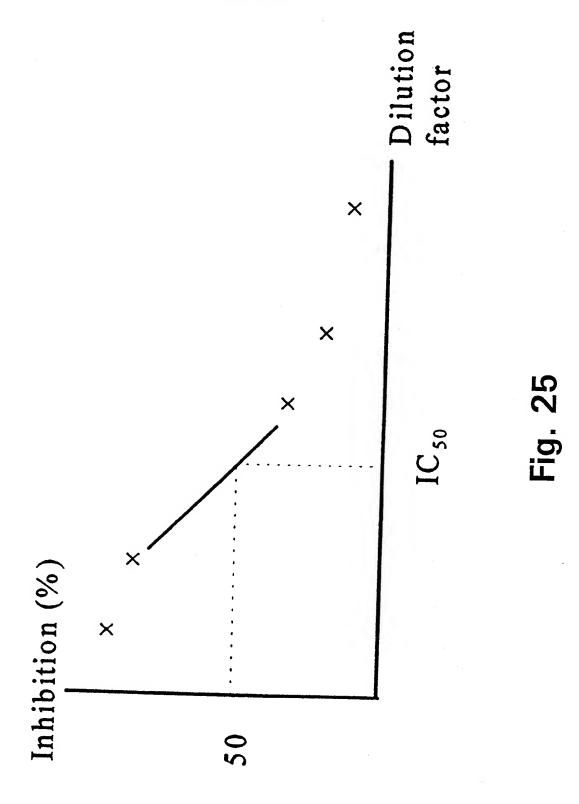


Fig. 24





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Fig. 26 A CTL activity induced by different synthetic DNA vaccines

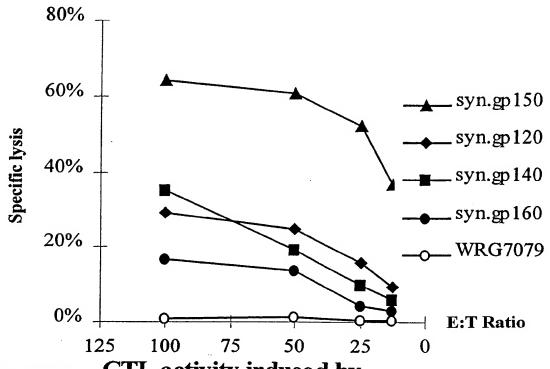
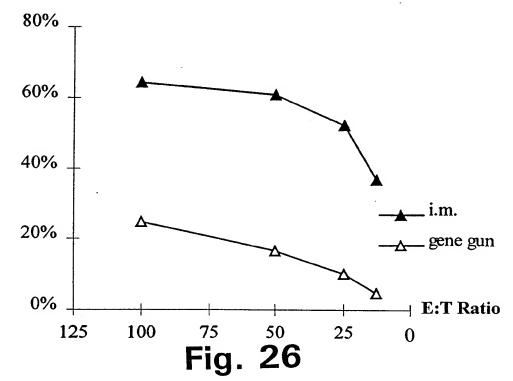


Fig. 26 B CTL activity induced by different DNA delivery methods.



		Pé	ercentage	e of
		antise	erum pos	itive to
		gp12	O <sub>IIIb</sub> and o	др41 <sub>Шь</sub>
		in we	stern blo	t assay
Week		0	9	18
$syn.gp120_{BX08}$	gp120	0	65	90
	gp41	0	0	35
·				
$syn.gp140_{BX08}$	gp120	0	65	100
	gp41	0	95	100
syn.gp150 <sub>BX08</sub>	gp120	0	30	41
	gp41	0	41	53
syn.gp160 <sub>BX08</sub>	gp120	0	32	50
	gp41	0	44	64
$wt.gp160_{BX08}$	gp120 _	0	nd	53
	gp41	0	nd	48
wt.gp160 <sub>BX08</sub> /pRev	gp120 _	0	nd	5
	gp41	0	nd	55

Fig. 27

Fig. 28 A

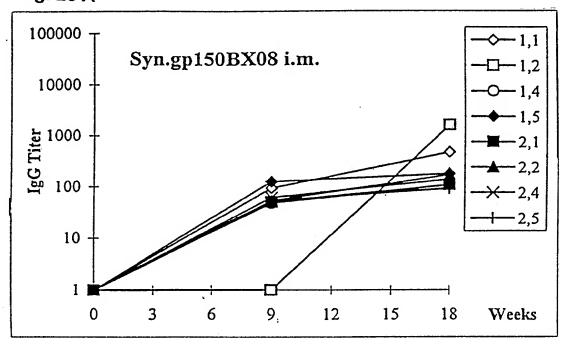


Fig. 28 B

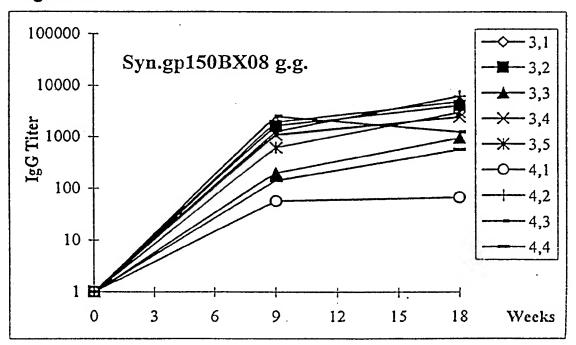


Fig. 28

WO 00/29561

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Fig. 29 A

#### i.m. immunisation

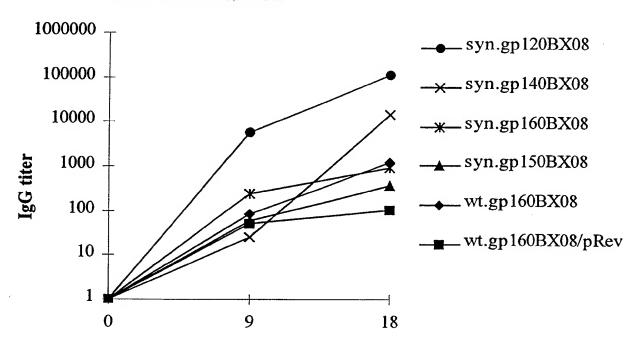
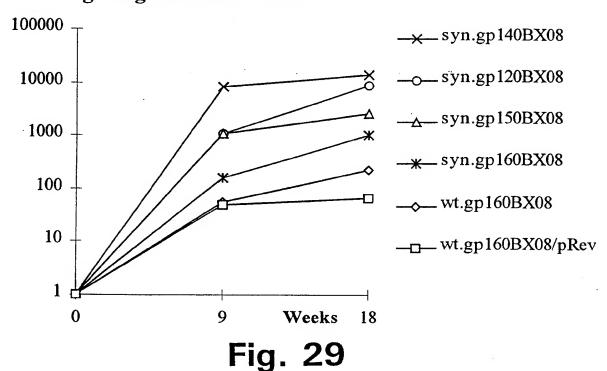


Fig. 29 B

### gene gun immunisation



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<120> Method for producing an nucleotide sequence construct with optimised codons for an HIV envelope based on a primary, clinical HIV isolate and the BX08 construct.

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Ala	Ser	Ala	Ala	Asp	Arg	Leu	Trp	Val	Thr	Val	Tyr	Tyr	Gly	Val	Pro		
1				5					10				_	15			

gtg tgg aag gac gcc acc acc ctg ttc tgc gcc agc gac gcc aag 96
Val Trp Lys Asp Ala Thr Thr Leu Phe Cys Ala Ser Asp Ala Lys
20 25 30

gcc tac gac acc gag gtg cac aac gtg tgg gcc acc cac gcg tgc gtg
Ala Tyr Asp Thr Glu Val His Asn Val Trp Ala Thr His Ala Cys Val
35 40 45

ccc acc gac ccc aac ccc cag gag gtg gtg ctg ggc aac gtg acc gag
Pro Thr Asp Pro Asn Pro Gln Glu Val Val Leu Gly Asn Val Thr Glu
50 55 . 60

aac ttc aac atg ggc aag aac aac atg gtg gag cag atg cac gag gat
Asn Phe Asn Met Gly Lys Asn Asn Met Val Glu Gln Met His Glu Asp
65 70 75 80

atc Ile

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<211> 81

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1 5 10 15

acc ccc ctg tgc gtg acc ctg aac tgc acc aag ctg aag aac agc acc
Thr Pro Leu Cys Val Thr Leu Asn Cys Thr Lys Leu Lys Asn Ser Thr
20 25 30

96

48

gac acc aac acc cgc tgg ggc acc cag gag atg aag aac tgc ag
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His Pro Leu Arg Pro Arg Arg Leu Arg His Pro Glu Val Gln Gln Gln Asp Leu Gln Arq His Arq Pro Leu His Gln Arq Glu His Arq Ala 40 Val His Pro Arg Asn 50 <210> 9 <211> 254 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)...(254) gaa ttc gcc ccg tgg tga gca ccc agc tgc tgc tga acg gca gcc tgg 48 Glu Phe Ala Pro Trp \* Ala Pro Ser Cys Cys \* Thr Ala Ala Trp ccg agg agg tgg tga tca gat ctg aga act tca cca aca acg cca 96 Pro Arg Arg Trp \* Ser Asp Leu Arg Thr Ser Pro Thr Thr Pro 20 aga cca tca tcg tgc agc tga acg aga gcg tgg aga tca act gca ccc 144 Arg Pro Ser Ser Cys Ser \* Thr Arg Ala Trp Arg Ser Thr Ala Pro gcc cca aca aca aca ccc gca aga gca tcc aca tcg gcc ctg gcc gcg 192 Ala Pro Thr Thr Pro Ala Arg Ala Ser Thr Ser Ala Leu Ala Ala cct tct aca cca ccq qcq aca tca tcq qcq aca tcc qcc aqq ccc act 240 Pro Ser Thr Pro Pro Ala Thr Ser Ser Ala Thr Ser Ala Arg Pro Thr gca aca tct cta qa 254 Ala Thr Ser Leu 80 <210> 10 <211> 80 <212> PRT <213> Artificial Sequence <400> 10 Glu Phe Ala Pro Trp Ala Pro Ser Cys Cys Thr Ala Ala Trp Pro Arg 5 10 Arg Arg Trp Ser Asp Leu Arg Thr Ser Pro Thr Thr Pro Arg Pro Ser 25 Ser Cys Ser Thr Arg Ala Trp Arg Ser Thr Ala Pro Ala Pro Thr Thr 40 Thr Pro Ala Arg Ala Ser Thr Ser Ala Leu Ala Ala Pro Ser Thr Pro 55 60 Pro Ala Thr Ser Ala Thr Ser Ala Arg Pro Thr Ala Thr Ser Leu 70 75

PCT/DK00/00144

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                               25
Glu Arg Asp Gln Gln Arg Gly Gln His His
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atg tgg cag gag gtg ggc aag gcc atg tac gcc ccc ccc atc ggc ggc
                                                                      96
Met Trp Gln Glu Val Gly Lys Ala Met Tyr Ala Pro Pro Ile Gly Gly
cag atc aag tgc ctg agc aac atc acc ggc ctg ctg ctg acc cgc gac
                                                                     144
Gln Ile Lys Cys Leu Ser Asn Ile Thr Gly Leu Leu Leu Thr Arg Asp
                             40
ggc ggc agc gac aac tcg ag
                                                                     164
Gly Gly Ser Asp Asn Ser
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Met Trp Gln Glu Val Gly Lys Ala Met Tyr Ala Pro Pro Ile Gly Gly
                                25
Gln Ile Lys Cys Leu Ser Asn Ile Thr Gly Leu Leu Leu Thr Arg Asp
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                           40
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	gaa Glu 50															1	92
cgc Arg 65	tgc Cys	ag														2	00
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1	Glu			5					10			_	_	15			
	Gln		20					25			_	_	30	_			
Ala	Pro	Gly 35	His	Arg	Pro	His	Gln 40	Gly	Gln	Ala	Pro	Arg 45	Gly	Ala	Ala		
Arg Arg 65	Glu 50 Cys	Ala	Arg	Arg	Gly	His 55	Arg	Arg	Tyr	Val	Pro 60	Arg	Leu	Pro	Gly		
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	caa Gln																96
	cct Pro															1	44

Arg			cgc Arg													192
_	_	_	ccg Pro		-	cc										212
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Arg	Gln	Leu	Ala 20	Gln	Arg	Ala	Val	Gln 25	Val	Gln	Gly	Gly	Glu 30	Asp	Arg	
Ala	Pro	Gly 35	His	Arg	Pro	His	Gln 40	Gly	Gln	Ala	Pro	Arg 45	Gly	Ala	Ala	
Arg	Glu 50	Ala	Arg	Leu	Gly	His 55	Arg	Arg	Tyr	Val	Pro 60	Arg	Leu	Pro	Gly	
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Ala Pro Gly His Arg Pro His Gln Gly Gln Ala Pro Arg Gly Ala Ala
                           40
Arg Glu Glu Arg Arg Gly His Arg Arg Tyr Val Pro Arg Leu Pro Gly
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Arg Cys
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                                     10
ecc gec age tge tga geg gea teg tge age age aga aca ace tge tge
                                                                     96
Pro Ala Ser Cys * Ala Ala Ser Cys Ser Ser Arg Thr Thr Cys Cys
15
                         20
gcg cca tcg agg ccc agc acc tgc tcc agc tga ccg tgt ggg gca
                                                                    144
Ala Pro Ser Arg Pro Ser Ser Thr Cys Ser Ser * Pro Cys Gly Ala
30
                     35
                                                                    178
tca agc agc tcc agg ccc gcg tgc tgg ctc tag a
Ser Ser Ser Arg Pro Ala Cys Trp Leu *
 45
                     50
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Arg Pro Ala Cys Trp Leu
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                                                                     48
Leu Gln Ala Ala Pro Trp Ala Pro Pro Ala * Pro * Pro Cys Arg
                                     10
ece gee age tge tga geg gea teg tge age aga aca ace tge tge
                                                                     96
Pro Ala Ser Cys * Ala Ala Ser Cys Ser Ser Arg Thr Thr Cys Cys
 15
gcg cca tcg agg ccc agc acc tgc tcc agc tga ccg tgt ggg gca
                                                                    144
Ala Pro Ser Arg Pro Ser Ser Thr Cys Ser Ser * Pro Cys Gly Ala
 30
                     35
tca agc agt gct gcg gcc gcg tgc tgg ctc tag a
                                                                    178
Ser Ser Ser Ala Ala Ala Cys Trp Leu *
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                5
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1
                                    10
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                                                                     77
Leu Arg Gln Ala Asp Leu His His Gly
            20
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Arg Pro Cys Pro Gly Thr Pro Ala Gly Ala Thr Arg Thr * Ala Arg
ttt ggg aca aca tga cct gga tgg agt ggg agc gcg aga tca gca act
                                                                           96
Phe Gly Thr Thr * Pro Gly Trp Ser Gly Ser Ala Arg Ser Ala Thr
aca ccg aga tca tct aca gcc tga tcg agg aga gcc aga acc agc agg
Thr Pro Arg Ser Ser Thr Ala * Ser Arg Arg Ala Arg Thr Ser Arg
                                                                          144
                                            40
aga aga acg agc tgg acc tgc tcc agc tgg aca agt ggg caa gct t
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                                  25
Arg Ser Ser Thr Ala Ser Arg Arg Ala Arg Thr Ser Arg Arg Thr
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                                     10
gat ttt cat cat gat cgt ggg cgg cct gat cgg cct gcg cat cgt gtt
                                                                       96
Asp Phe His His Asp Arg Gly Arg Pro Asp Arg Pro Ala His Arg Val
cac cgt gct gag cat cgt gaa ccg cgt gcg cca ggg cta cag ccc cct
                                                                      144
His Arg Ala Glu His Arg Glu Pro Arg Ala Pro Gly Leu Gln Pro Pro
gag ctt cca gac ccg cct gcc cgt gcc ccg cgg
                                                                      177
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Asp Phe His His Asp Arg Gly Arg Pro Asp Arg Pro Ala His Arg Val
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His Arg Ala Glu His Arg Glu Pro Arg Ala Pro Gly Leu Gln Pro Pro
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Glu Leu Pro Asp Pro Pro Ala Arg Ala Pro Arg
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Pro Arg Pro Arg Pro Pro Arg Gly His Arg Gly Gly Gly Arg Arg Ala
ega eeg ega eeg eag eac eeg eet ggt gae egg ett eet gee eet gat
                                                                      96
Arg Pro Arg Pro Gln His Pro Pro Gly Asp Arg Leu Pro Ala Pro Asp
ctg gga cga cct gcg cag cct gtt cct gtt cag cta cca tcg at
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Leu Gly Arg Pro Ala Gln Pro Val Pro Val Gln Leu Pro Ser
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WO 00/29561 PCT/DK00/00144

13

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Arg Pro Arg Pro Gln His Pro Pro Gly Asp Arg Leu Pro Ala Pro Asp
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Leu Gly Arg Pro Ala Gln Pro Val Pro Val Gln Leu Pro Ser
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Ile Asp Cys Ala Thr Cys Cys * Ser Trp Pro Ala Ser Trp Ser Cys
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tgg gcc gcg gct ggg aga tcc tga agt act ggt gga acc tgc tcc
Trp Ala Gly Ala Ala Gly Arg Ser * Ser Thr Gly Gly Thr Cys Ser
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agt act gga gcc agg agc tga aga act ctg cag
Ser Thr Gly Ala Arg Ser * Arg Thr Leu Gln
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Gly Ala Arg Ser Arg Thr Leu Gln
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48

96

129

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eeg ace geg tga teg agg tgg tge age gea tet gge geg gea tee tge
                                                                     96
Pro Thr Ala * Ser Arg Trp Cys Ser Ala Ser Gly Ala Ala Ser Cys
aca tcc cca ccc gaa ttc
                                                                    114
Thr Ser Pro Pro Glu Phe
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Pro Glu Phe
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			gtg Val 100													336
			acc Thr	_				_	-	_	_		_	_		384
		_	acc Thr	-		-		_	_	-	-			_	-	432
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Ala Tyr Asp Thr Glu Val His Asn Val Trp Ala Thr His Ala Cys Val 35

Pro	Thr 50	Asp	Pro	Asn	Pro	Gln 55	Glu	Val	Val	Leu	Gly 60	Asn	Val	Thr	Glu	
Asn 65	Phe	Asn	Met	Gly	Lys 70	Asn	Asn	Met	Val	Glu 75		Met	His	Glu	Asp 80	
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Thr	Asn	Asn 115		Arg	Trp	Gly	Thr 120		Glu	Met	Lys	Asn 125		Ser	Phe	
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Phre 145		Ser	Leu	Asp	Ile 150		Pro	Ile	-Asp	Asn 155		Asn	Thr	Ser		
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cgc Arg	gag Glu	aag Lys	ttc Phe 20	aac Asn	aac Asn	acc Thr	acc Thr	atc Ile 25	gtg Val	ttc Phe	aac Asn	cag Gln	agc Ser 30	tcc Ser	ggc Gly	96
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aac Asn 65	agc Ser	gag Glu	ggc Gly	aac Asn	atc Ile 70	act Thr	agt Ser	ggc Gly	acc Thr	atc Ile 75	acc Thr	ctg Leu	ccc Pro	tgc Cys	cgc Arg 80	240
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gcc Ala	ccc Pro	ccc Pro	atc Ile 100	ggc Gly	ggc Gly	cag Gln	atc Ile	aag Lys 105	tgc Cys	ctg Leu	agc Ser	aac Asn	atc Ile 110	acc Thr	ggc Gly	336
ctg Leu	ctg Leu	ctg Leu 115	acc Thr	cgc Arg	gac Asp	ggc Gly	ggc Gly 120	agc Ser	gac Asp	aac Asn	tcg Ser	ag				374

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Phe	Tyr 50		Asn	Thr	Thr	Gln 55		Phe	Asn	Ser	Thr 60	Trp	Asn	Glu	Thr	
Asn 65		Glu	Gly	Asn	Ile 70		Ser	Gly	Thr	Ile 75	Thr	Leu	Pro	Cys	Arg 80	
	Lys	Gln	Ile	Ile 85		Met	Trp	Gln	Glu 90	Val	Gly	Lys	Ala	Met 95	Tyr	
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Ala 1 gtg Val gcc	agc Ser tgg Trp	400> gcg Ala aag Lys	(1). 45 gcc Ala gac Asp	gac Asp 5 gcc Ala	cgc Arg acc Thr	ctg Leu acc Thr	Trp acc Thr	val ctg Leu 25 gtg	Thr 10 ttc Phe	Val tgc Cys gcc	Tyr gcc Ala acc	Tyr agc Ser cac	gac Asp 30	Val 15 gcc Ala tgc	Pro aag Lys gtg	
Ala 1 gtg Val gcc Ala	agc Ser tgg Trp tac Tyr	100> gcg Ala aag Lys gac Asp 35	(1). 45 gcc Ala gac Asp 20	gac Asp 5 gcc Ala gag Glu	cgc Arg acc Thr gtg Val	ctg Leu acc Thr cac	Trp acc Thr aac Asn 40 gag	val ctg Leu 25 gtg Val	Thr 10 ttc Phe tgg Trp	tgc Cys gcc Ala	Tyr  gcc Ala  acc Thr	agc Ser cac His 45	gac Asp 30 gcg Ala	Val 15 gcc Ala tgc Cys	Pro aag Lys gtg Val	96
Ala 1 gtg Val gcc Ala ccc Pro	agc Ser tgg Trp tac Tyr acc Thr 50	doo> gcg Ala aag Lys gac Asp 35 gac Asp aac	(1). 45 gcc Ala gac Asp 20 acc Thr	gac Asp 5 gcc Ala gag Glu aac Asn	cgc Arg acc Thr gtg Val ccc Pro	ctg Leu acc Thr cac His cag Gln 55	Trp acc Thr aac Asn 40 gag Glu aac	ctg Leu 25 gtg Val gtg Val	Thr 10 ttc Phe tgg Trp gtg Val	tgc Cys gcc Ala ctg Leu	gcc Ala acc Thr ggc Gly 60 cag	agc Ser cac His 45 aac Asn	gac Asp 30 gcg Ala gtg Val	Val 15 gcc Ala tgc Cys acc Thr	eaag Lys gtg Val gag Glu	96 144
Ala 1 gtg Val gcc Ala ccc Pro aac Asn 65 atc	agc Ser tgg Trp tac Tyr acc Thr 50 ttc Phe atc	doo> gcg Ala aag Lys gac Asp 35 gac Asp aac Asn agc	(1). 45 gcc Ala gac Asp 20 acc Thr	gac Asp 5 gcc Ala gag Glu aac Asn ggc Gly	egc Arg acc Thr gtg Val ccc Pro aag Lys 70 gac	ctg Leu acc Thr cac His cag Gln 55 aac Asn	Trp acc Thr aac Asn 40 gag Glu aac Asn	ctg Leu 25 gtg Val gtg Val atg Met	Thr 10 ttc Phe tgg Trp gtg Val gtg Val	tgc Cys gcc Ala ctg Leu gag Glu 75	gcc Ala acc Thr ggc Gly 60 cag Gln tgc	agc Ser cac His 45 aac Asn atg Met	gac Asp 30 gcg Ala gtg Val cac His	Val 15 gcc Ala tgc Cys acc Thr gag Glu	Pro aag Lys gtg Val gag Glu gat Asp 80 acc	96 144 192

Pro	Leu	Cys	Val 100	Thr	Leu	Asn	Cys	Thr 105	Lys	Leu	Lys	Asn	Ser 110	Thr	Asp	
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	atc Ile 130	_		_		_		_	_	_	_			-	_	432
	tac Tyr	-	_	_					-		_			-		480
	ctg Leu															528
	agc Ser									_	_		_			576
_	atc Ile	_	_	_			_								_	624
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_	acc Thr	_	_	_	_			_	_	-						720
	aga Arg		-						_	_					_	768
	aac Asn															816
_	aag Lys	_							_	_						864
_	atc Ile 290			_		_	_	_		_				-		912
	tgg Trp				_	_	_		_		_	-	-		-	960
	aac Asn					_			_	_				-		1008

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atc Ile 385	atc Ile	aac Asn	atg Met	tgg Trp	cag Gln 390	gag Glu	gtg Val	gg <del>c</del> Gly	aag Lys	gcc Ala 395	atg Met	tac Tyr	gcc Ala	ccc Pro	ccc Pro 400	1200
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1 Val Ala Pro Asn	Ser Trp Tyr Thr 50	Ala Lys Asp 35 Asp	Ala Asp 20 Thr	5 Ala Glu Asn	Thr Val Pro Lys	Thr His Gln 55	Thr Asn 40 Glu	Leu 25 Val	10 Phe Trp Val	Cys Ala Leu Glu	Ala Thr Gly 60	Ser His 45 Asn	Asp 30 Ala Val	15 Ala Cys Thr	Lys Val Glu Asp	
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-	-	-	ag acc atc atc gtg ys Thr Ile Ile Val 255	-
	r Val Glu Ile	-	gc ccc aac aac aac rg Pro Asn Asn Asn 270	
	e His Ile Gly		ce tte tae ace ace la Phe Tyr Thr Thr 285	
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cag atc agc acc agc gtg cgc aac aag atg aag cgc gag tac gcc ctg
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                                                                     672
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                                                                    1008
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ccc acc gac ccc aac ccc cag gag gtg gtg ctg ggc aac gtg acc gag
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Pro	Ala	His 115	Arg	Val	His	Arg	Ala 120	Glu	His	Arg	Glu	Pro 125	Arg	Ala	Pro	
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		gtg Val														672
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	-			_	_	atc Ile	_		_	_					-	1728
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						atc Ile										1824
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Thi	Arg	Asp	Gly 420	Gly	Ser	Asp	Asn	Ser 425	Ser	Ser	Gly	Lys	Glu 430	Ile	Phe
	, Pro	435					440					445			
	Tyr 450					455					460				
465					470					475					480
Ala	a Met	Phe	Leu	Gly 485		Leu	Gly	Ala	Ala 490	Gly	Ser	Thr	Met	Gly 495	Ala
Ala	a Ser	Leu	Thr 500		Thr	Val	Gln	Ala 505		Gln	Leu	Leu	Ser 510	Gly	Ile
	l Gln	515					520					525			
	1 Leu 530	Gln	Leu			535					540				
Le:	ı Ala		Glu	Arg	Tyr 550		Gln	Asp	Gln	Arg 555	Phe	Leu	Gly	Met	Trp 560

Gly	Cys	Ser	Gly	Lys 565	Leu	Ile	Cys	Thr	Thr 570	Ala	Val	Pro	Trp	Asn 575	Ala		
Ser	Trp	Ser	Asn 580	Lys	Asn	Leu	Ser	Gln 585	Ile	Trp	Asp	Asn	Met 590	Thr	Trp		
Met	Glu		Glu	Arg	Glu	Ile		Asn	Tyr	Thr	Glu		Ile	Tyr	Ser		
Leu	Ile 610	595 Glu	Glu	Ser	Gln	Asn 615	600 Gln	Gln	Glu	Lys	Asn 620	605 Glu	Leu	Asp	Leu		
Leu 625	Gln	Leu	Asp	Lys	Trp 630	Ala	Ser	Leu	Cys	Asp 635	Leu	Arg	Ile				
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	<2	220> 221> 222>		(2	2071)	ı											
		100>															
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ata	t.aa	аад	gac	acc	acc	acc	acc	cta	ttc	tac	acc	agc	gac	acc	aan	96	
					Thr											30	
					gtg Val											144	
ccc	acc	gac	CCC	aac	ccc	cad	aaa	ata	ata	cta	aac	aac	ata	200	asa	192	
					Pro											172	
					aag											240	
Asn 65	Phe	Asn	Met	Gly	Lys 70	Asn	Asn	Met	Val	Glu 75	Gln	Met	His	Glu	Asp 80		
					gac											288	
116	тте	ser	ьeu	85	Asp	GIN	ser	Leu	90 Lys	Pro	Cys	vaı	гàг	ьеи 95	Thr		
					ctg											336	
PIO	ьеи	Cys	100	Inr	Leu	ASN	cys	105	гÀг	ьeu	гÀг	Asn	110	Thr	Asp		
					tgg											384	
1111	non	115	111I	MIG	Trp	атй	120	GIII	GIU	met	тλр	125	cys	ser	rue		
					gtg Val											432	
11011	130	ner	* 1 î î.	SET	val	135	USII	пур	net	пÃр	140	GIU	т Ат	MId	ьeu		
					atc											480	
Phe	Tyr	Ser	Leu	Asp	Ile	Val	Pro	Ile	Asp	Asn	Asp	Asn	Thr	Ser	Tyr		

145	150	155		160
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gtg agc ttc gag Val Ser Phe Glu 180				
gcc atc ctg aag Ala Ile Leu Lys 195	-	ys Thr Phe Asn		_
acc aac gtg agc Thr Asn Val Ser 210		ys Thr His Gly		
agc acc cag ctg Ser Thr Gln Leu 225				
atc aga tct gag Ile Arg Ser Glu		, ,	<i>y y</i>	-
ctg aac gag agc Leu Asn Glu Ser 260		•		
cgc aag agc atc Arg Lys Ser Ile 275		co Gly Arg Ala		
gac atc atc ggc Asp Ile Ile Gly 290		ln Ala His Cys I		
aac tgg acc aac Asn Trp Thr Asn 305	acc ctg aag cg Thr Leu Lys Ar 310	gc gtg gcc gag a cg Val Ala Glu 1 315	aag ctg cgc gag Lys Leu Arg Glu	aag 960 Lys 320
ttc aac aac acc Phe Asn Asn Thr				
gag atc gtg atg Glu Ile Val Met 340				
aac acc acc cag Asn Thr Thr Gln 355		er Thr Trp Asn (		
ggc aac atc act Gly Asn Ile Thr 370		le Thr Leu Pro (		
atc atc aac atg	tgg cag gag gt	g ggc aag gcc a	atg tac gcc ccc	ccc 1200

Ile 385	Ile	Asn	Met	Trp	Gln 390	Glu	Val	Gly	Lys	Ala 395	Met	Tyr	Ala	Pro	Pro 400	
					aag Lys											1248
	_	_			agc Ser	_		_	-	_		_				1296
_					gac Asp	_	_	_			-			_		1344
_		-			aag Lys				_			_			_	1392
					gtg Val 470											1440
					ttc Phe											1488
-	_	_		_	acc Thr		_	_		_	_	_	_			1536
					aac Asn											1584
					gtg Val											1632
				_	tac Tyr 550		_	_	_	_		_		_		1680
_					ctg Leu											1728
		_		_	aac Asn	_	_	_			_		_			1776
	_			_	gag Glu		_								_	1824
					cag Gln											1872

											aac Asn			1920
		_			_			-			ggc Gly		_	1968
		_	_				 _	_			aac Asn 670	_		2016
_	_		_	_	_	_			_	_	ccc Pro		tga *	2064
cgg Arg	atc Ile	С												2071

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<211> 689

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<400> 70

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Leu Asn Glu Ser Val Glu Ile Asn Cys Thr Arg Pro Asn Asn Asn Thr 265 Arg Lys Ser Ile His Ile Gly Pro Gly Arg Ala Phe Tyr Thr Thr Gly 275 280 Asp Ile Ile Gly Asp Ile Arg Gln Ala His Cys Asn Ile Ser Arg Thr 295 Asn Trp Thr Asn Thr Leu Lys Arg Val Ala Glu Lys Leu Arg Glu Lys 310 315 Phe Asn Asn Thr Thr Ile Val Phe Asn Gln Ser Ser Gly Gly Asp Pro 325 330 Glu Ile Val Met His Ser Phe Asn Cys Gly Gly Glu Phe Phe Tyr Cys 345 Asn Thr Thr Gln Leu Phe Asn Ser Thr Trp Asn Glu Thr Asn Ser Glu 360 Gly Asn Ile Thr Ser Gly Thr Ile Thr Leu Pro Cys Arg Ile Lys Gln 375 380 Ile Ile Asn Met Trp Gln Glu Val Gly Lys Ala Met Tyr Ala Pro Pro 390 395 Ile Gly Gly Gln Ile Lys Cys Leu Ser Asn Ile Thr Gly Leu Leu 405 410 Thr Arg Asp Gly Gly Ser Asp Asn Ser Ser Ser Gly Lys Glu Ile Phe 425 Arg Pro Gly Gly Asp Met Arg Asp Asn Trp Arg Ser Glu Leu Tyr 440 Lys Tyr Lys Val Val Lys Ile Glu Pro Leu Gly Ile Ala Pro Thr Lys 455 460 Ala Lys Arg Arg Val Val Gln Arg Glu Lys Arg Ala Val Gly Ile Gly 470 475 Ala Met Phe Leu Gly Phe Leu Gly Ala Ala Gly Ser Thr Met Gly Ala 485 490 Ala Ser Leu Thr Leu Thr Val Gln Ala Arg Gln Leu Leu Ser Gly Ile 500 505 Val Gln Gln Asn Asn Leu Leu Arg Ala Ile Glu Ala Gln Gln His 520 Leu Leu Gln Leu Thr Val Trp Gly Ile Lys Gln Leu Gln Ala Arg Val 535 Leu Ala Leu Glu Arg Tyr Leu Gln Asp Gln Arg Phe Leu Gly Met Trp 550 555 Gly Cys Ser Gly Lys Leu Ile Cys Thr Thr Ala Val Pro Trp Asn Ala 565 570 575 Ser Trp Ser Asn Lys Asn Leu Ser Gln Ile Trp Asp Asn Met Thr Trp 585 · Met Glu Trp Glu Arg Glu Ile Ser Asn Tyr Thr Glu Ile Ile Tyr Ser 600 Leu Ile Glu Glu Ser Gln Asn Gln Glu Lys Asn Glu Leu Asp Leu 615 620 Leu Gln Leu Asp Lys Trp Ala Ser Leu Trp Asn Trp Phe Asn Ile Thr 630 635 Asn Trp Leu Trp Tyr Ile Lys Ile Phe Ile Met Ile Val Gly Gly Leu 645 650 Ile Gly Leu Arg Ile Val Phe Thr Val Leu Ser Ile Val Asn Arg Val 665 Arg Gln Gly Cys Ser Pro Leu Ser Phe Gln Thr Arg Leu Pro Val Arg 680 Ile

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	aac Asn 210		_			_	_					_		_		672
	acc Thr															720
	aga Arg															768
	aac Asn															816
-	aag Lys	_							_	_						864
_	atc Ile 290			_		_	_	-		_				_		912
	tgg Trp				_	-	-		-		_	_	_		_	960
	aac Asn															1008
	atc Ile		_		_			_							-	1056
	acc Thr		_	_			_							_		1104
	aac Asn 370			-					_		-	_		_	_	1152
	atc Ile		_		_	-		-	-							1200
	ggc Gly				_	_	_	_					_	_	_	1248
	cgc Arg				_	-		_	_	_		_				1296
_	ccc Pro				-	_	_	-			_	_		-		1344

		435					440					445					
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gcc Ala 465	aag Lys	cgc Arg	cgc Arg	gtg Val	gtg Val 470	cag Gln	cgc Arg	gag Glu	aag Lys	cgc Arg 475	gcc Ala	gtg Val	ggc Gly	atc Ile	ggc Gly 480	144	0
gct Ala	atg Met	ttc Phe	ctc Leu	ggc Gly 485	ttc Phe	ctg Leu	ggc Gly	gct Ala	gca Ala 490	ggc Gly	agc Ser	acc Thr	atg Met	ggc Gly 495	gcc Ala	148	8
gcc Ala	agc Ser	ctg Leu	acc Thr 500	ctg Leu	acc Thr	gtg Val	cag Gln	gcc Ala 505	cgc Arg	cag Gln	ctg Leu	ctg Leu	agc Ser 510	ggc Gly	atc Ile	153	6
gtg Val	cag Gln	cag Gln 515	cag Gln	aac Asn	aac Asn	ctg Leu	ctg Leu 520	cgc Arg	gcc Ala	atc Ile	gag Glu	gcc Ala 525	cag Gln	cag Gln	cac His	1584	4
ctg Leu	ctc Leu 530	cag Gln	ctg Leu	acc Thr	gtg Val	tgg Trp 535	ggc Gly	atc Ile	aag Lys	cag Gln	ctc Leu 540	cag Gln	gcc Ala	cgc Arg	gtg Val	1632	2
ctg Leu 545	gct Ala	cta Leu	gag Glu	cgc Arg	tac Tyr 550	ctc Leu	cag Gln	gac Asp	cag Gln	cgc Arg 555	ttc Phe	ctg Leu	ggc Gly	atg Met	tgg Trp 560	1680	0
ggc Gly	tgc Cys	tcc Ser	ggc Gly	aag Lys 565	ctg Leu	atc Ile	tgc Cys	acc Thr	acg Thr 570	gcc Ala	gtg Val	ccc Pro	tgg Trp	aac Asn 575	gcc Ala	1728	3
	tgg Trp															1776	6
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ctg Leu	atc Ile 610	gag Glu	gag Glu	agc Ser	cag Gln	aac Asn 615	cag Gln	cag Gln	gag Glu	aag Lys	aac Asn 620	gag Glu	ctg Leu	gac Asp	ctg Leu	1872	2
ctc Leu 625	cag Gln	ctg Leu	gac Asp	aag Lys	tgg Trp 630	gca Ala	agc Ser	ttg Leu	tgg Trp	aac Asn 635	tgg Trp	ttc Phe	aac Asn	atc Ile	acc Thr 640	1920	)
aac Asn	tgg Trp	ctg Leu	tgg Trp	tac Tyr 645	atc Ile	aag Lys	att Ile	ttc Phe	atc Ile 650	atg Met	atc Ile	gtg Val	ggc Gly	ggc Gly 655	ctg Leu	1968	3
atc Ile	ggc Gly	ctg Leu	cgc Arg 660	atc Ile	gtg Val	ttc Phe	acc Thr	gtg Val 665	ctg Leu	agc Ser	atc Ile	gtg Val	aac Asn 670	cgc Arg	gtg Val	2016	ŝ
cgc	cag	ggc	tac	agc	ccc	ctg	agc	ttc	cag	acc	cgc	ctg	ccc	gtg	ccc	2064	1

Arg	Gln	Gly 675	Tyr	Ser	Pro	Leu	Ser 680	Phe	Gln	Thr	Arg	Leu 685		Val	Pro	
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gac Asp 705	cgc Arg	gac Asp	cgc Arg	agc Ser	acc Thr 710	cgc Arg	ctg Leu	gtg Val	acc Thr	ggc Gly 715	ttc Phe	ctg Leu	ccc Pro	ctg Leu	atc Ile 720	2160
tgg <del>Tr</del> p	gac Asp	gac Asp	ctg Leu	cgc Arg 725	agc Ser	ctg Leu	ttc Phe	ctg Leu	ttc -Phe 730	agc Ser	tac Tyr	cat His	cga Arg	ttg Leu 735	cgc Arg	2208
gac Asp	ctg Leu	ctg Leu	ctg Leu 740	atc Ile	gtg Val	gcc Ala	cgc Arg	atc Ile 745	gtg Val	gag Glu	ctg Leu	ctg Leu	ggc Gly 750	cgg Arg	cgc Arg	2256
ggc Gly	tgg Trp	gag Glu 755	atc Ile	ctg Leu	aag Lys	tac Tyr	tgg Trp 760	tgg Trp	aac Asn	ctg Leu	ctc Leu	cag Gln 765	tac Tyr	tgg Trp	agc Ser	2304
cag Gln	gag Glu 770	ctg Leu	aag Lys	aac Asn	tct Ser	gca Ala 775	gtg Val	agc Ser	ctg Leu	ctg Leu	aac Asn 780	gcc Ala	acc Thr	gcc Ala	atc Ile	2352
gcc Ala 785	gtg Val	gcc Ala	gag Glu	ggc	acc Thr 790	gac Asp	cgc Arg	gtg Val	atc Ile	gag Glu 795	gtg Val	gtg Val	cag Gln	cgc Arg	atc Ile 800	2400
tgg Trp	cgc Arg	ggc Gly	atc Ile	ctg Leu 805	cac His	atc Ile	ccc Pro	acc Thr	cga Arg 810	att Ile	cgc Arg	cag Gln	ggc Gly	ttc Phe 815	gag Glu	2448
	gcc Ala			taa *	gga Gly											2469
	<2 <2 <2		822 PRT Arti	lfici	ial S	Seque	ence									
Ala	<4 Ser	100> Ala		Asp	Arg	Leu	Trp	Val	Thr	Val	Tyr	Tyr	Gly	Val	Pro	
1 Val	Trp	Lys		5 Ala	Thr	Thr	Thr	Leu	10 Phe	Суѕ	Ala	Ser	Asp	15 Ala	Lys	
Ala	Tyr	Asp 35	20 Thr	Glu	Val	His		25 Val	Trp	Ala	Thr		30 Ala	Cys	Val	
Pro	Thr 50		Pro	Asn	Pro	Gln 55	40 Glu	Val	Val	Leu		45 Asn	Val	Thr	Glu	
Asn 65	Phe	Asn	Met	Gly	Lys 70		Asn	Met	Val	Glu 75	60 Gln	Met	His	Glu	Asp 80	
	Ile	Ser	Leu	Trp 85		Gln	Ser	Leu	Lys 90		Cys	Val	Lys	Leu 95		
Pro	Leu	Cys	Val	Thr	Leu	Asn	Cys	Thr	Lys	Leu	Lys	Asn	Ser		Asp	

			100					105					110	ı	
Thr	Asn	Asn 115	Thr	Arg	Trp	Gly	Thr 120	Gln		Met	Lys	Asn 125	Cys		Phe
Asn	Ile 130		Thr	Ser	Val	Arg 135		Lys	Met	Lys	Arg 140	Glu	Tyr	Ala	Leu
Phe 145		Ser	Leu	Asp	Ile 150	Val	Pro	Ile	Asp	Asn 155		Asn	Thr	Ser	Tyr 160
Arg	Leu	Arg	Ser	Cys 165	Asn	Thr	Ser	Ile	Ile 170	Thr	Gln	Ala	Cys	Pro 175	Lys
Val	Ser	Phe	Glu 180	Pro	Ile	Pro	Ile	His 185	Phe	Cys	Ala	Pro	Ala 190	Gly	
Ala	Ile	Leu 195	Lys	Cys	Asn	Asn	Lys 200	Thr	Phe	Asn	Gly	Thr 205			Cys
Thr	Asn 210	Val	Ser	Thr	Val	Gln 215	Cys	Thr	His	Gly	Ile 220	Arg	Pro	Val	Val
Ser 225	Thr	Gln	Leu	Leu	Leu 230	Asn	Gly	Ser	Leu	Ala 235	Glu	Glu	Glu	Val	Val 240
			Glu	245					250					255	
			Ser 260					265					270		
		275	Ile				280					285			•
	290		Gly			295					300			_	
305			Asn		310					315					320
			Thr	325					330					335	
			Met 340					345					350	_	-
		355	Gln				360					365			
	370		Thr			375					380				
385			Met		390					395					400
			Gln	405					410			_		415	
			Gly 420					425					430		
		435	Gly				440					445			_
	450		Val			455					460				_
465			Arg		470					475					480
			Leu	485					490					495	
			Thr 500					505					510	_	
		515	Gln				520					525			
	530		Leu			535					540				
545			Glu		550					555			_		Trp 560
στλ	cys	ser	Gly	Lys 565	ьeu	тте	Cys	Thr	Thr 570	Ala	val	Pro	Trp	Asn 575	Ala

WO 00/29561 PCT/DK00/00144 51

Ser Trp Ser Asn Lys Asn Leu Ser Gln Ile Trp Asp Asn Met Thr Trp 585 Met Glu Trp Glu Arg Glu Ile Ser Asn Tyr Thr Glu Ile Ile Tyr Ser 600 Leu Ile Glu Glu Ser Gln Asn Gln Gln Glu Lys Asn Glu Leu Asp Leu 615 620 Leu Gln Leu Asp Lys Trp Ala Ser Leu Trp Asn Trp Phe Asn Ile Thr 630 635 Asn Trp Leu Trp Tyr Ile Lys Ile Phe Ile Met Ile Val Gly Gly Leu 650 Ile Gly Leu Arg Ile Val Phe Thr Val Leu Ser Ile Val Asn Arg Val 665 Arg Gln Gly Tyr Ser Pro Leu Ser Phe-Gln Thr Arg Leu Pro Val Pro 680 Arg Gly Pro Asp Arg Pro Glu Gly Ile Glu Glu Glu Gly Gly Glu Arg 695 Asp Arg Asp Arg Ser Thr Arg Leu Val Thr Gly Phe Leu Pro Leu Ile 715 720 Trp Asp Asp Leu Arg Ser Leu Phe Leu Phe Ser Tyr His Arg Leu Arg 725 730 Asp Leu Leu Leu Ile Val Ala Arg Ile Val Glu Leu Leu Gly Arg Arg 745 750 Gly Trp Glu Ile Leu Lys Tyr Trp Trp Asn Leu Leu Gln Tyr Trp Ser 760 765 Gln Glu Leu Lys Asn Ser Ala Val Ser Leu Leu Asn Ala Thr Ala Ile 775 Ala Val Ala Glu Gly Thr Asp Arg Val Ile Glu Val Val Gln Arg Ile 790 795 Trp Arg Gly Ile Leu His Ile Pro Thr Arg Ile Arg Gln Gly Phe Glu 805 810 Arg Ala Leu Leu Gly Ser 820 <210> 73 <211> 1431 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)...(1431) <400> 73 get age geg gee gae ege etg tgg gtg ace gtg tae tae gge gtg eee 48 Ala Ser Ala Ala Asp Arg Leu Trp Val Thr Val Tyr Tyr Gly Val Pro 1 gtg tgg aag gac gcc acc acc ctg ttc tgc gcc agc gac gcc aag 96 Val Trp Lys Asp Ala Thr Thr Leu Phe Cys Ala Ser Asp Ala Lys 20 gee tac gac acc gag gtg cac aac gtg tgg gee acc cac geg tgc gtg 144 Ala Tyr Asp Thr Glu Val His Asn Val Trp Ala Thr His Ala Cys Val 35 ece ace gae ece aac ece cag gag gtg gtg etg gge aac gtg ace gag 192 Pro Thr Asp Pro Asn Pro Gln Glu Val Val Leu Gly Asn Val Thr Glu

55

aac Asn 65	Phe	aac Asn	atg Met	ggc Gly	aag Lys 70	aac Asn	aac Asn	atg Met	gtg Val	gag Glu 75	cag Gln	atg Met	cac His	gag Glu	gat Asp 80	2	40
atc Ile	atc Ile	agc Ser	ctg Leu	tgg Trp 85	gac Asp	cag Gln	agc Ser	ctg Leu	aag Lys 90	ccc Pro	tgc Cys	gtg Val	aag Lys	ctg Leu 95	acc Thr	2	88
ccc Pro	ctg Leu	tgc Cys	gtg Val 100	acc Thr	ctg Leu	aac Asn	tgc Cys	acc Thr 105	aag Lys	ctg Leu	aag Lys	aac Asn	agc Ser 110	acc Thr	gac Asp	3	36
ac Thr	aac Asn	aac Asn 115	acc Thr	cgc Arg	tgg Trp	ggc Gly	acc Thr 120	ca <del>g</del> Gln	-gag Glu	atg Met	aag Lys	aac Asn 125	tgc Cys	agc Ser	ttc Phe	3	84
aac Asn	atc Ile 130	agc Ser	acc Thr	agc Ser	gtg Val	cgc Arg 135	aac Asn	aag Lys	atg Met	aag Lys	cgc Arg 140	gag Glu	tac Tyr	gcc Ala	ctg Leu	4	32
ttc Phe 145	tac Tyr	agc Ser	ctg Leu	gac Asp	atc Ile 150	gtg Val	ccc Pro	atc Ile	gac Asp	aac Asn 155	gac Asp	aac Asn	acc Thr	agc Ser	tac Tyr 160	41	80
cgc Arg	ctg Leu	cgc Arg	agc Ser	tgc Cys 165	aac Asn	aca Thr	tcg Ser	atc Ile	atc Ile 170	acc Thr	cag Gln	gcc Ala	tgc Cys	ccc Pro 175	aag Lys	52	28
gtg Val	agc Ser	ttc Phe	gag Glu 180	ccc Pro	atc Ile	ccc Pro	atc Ile	cac His 185	ttc Phe	tgc Cys	gcc Ala	ccc Pro	gcc Ala 190	ggc Gly	ttc Phe	5	76
gcc Ala	atc Ile	ctg Leu 195	aag Lys	tgc Cys	aac Asn	aac Asn	aag Lys 200	acc Thr	ttc Phe	aac Asn	ggc Gly	acc Thr 205	ggc Gly	ccc Pro	tgc Cys	62	24
					gtg Val											67	72
agc Ser 225	acc Thr	cag Gln	ctg Leu	ctg Leu	ctg Leu 230	aac Asn	ggc Gly	agc Ser	ctg Leu	gcc Ala 235	gag Glu	gag Glu	gag Glu	gtg Val	gtg Val 240	72	20
atc Ile	aga Arg	tct Ser	gag Glu	aac Asn 245	ttc Phe	acc Thr	aac Asn	aac Asn	gcc Ala 250	aag Lys	acc Thr	atc Ile	atc Ile	gtg Val 255	cag Gln	76	86
ctg Leu	aac Asn	gag Glu	agc Ser 260	gtg Val	gag Glu	atc Ile	aac Asn	tgc Cys 265	acc Thr	cgc Arg	ccc Pro	aac Asn	aac Asn 270	aac Asn	acc Thr	81	16
cgc Arg	aag Lys	agc Ser 275	atc Ile	cac His	atc Ile	ggc Gly	cct Pro 280	ggc Gly	cgc Arg	gcc Ala	ttc Phe	tac Tyr 285	acc Thr	acc Thr	ggc Gly	86	64
gac Asp	atc Ile 290	atc Ile	ggc Gly	gac Asp	atc Ile	cgc Arg 295	cag Gln	gcc Ala	cac His	tgc Cys	aac Asn 300	atc Ile	tct Ser	aga Arg	acc Thr	91	12

aac Asn 305	tgg Trp	acc Thr	aac Asn	acc Thr	ctg Leu 310	aag Lys	cgc Arg	gtg Val	gcc Ala	gag Glu 315	aag Lys	ctg Leu	cgc Arg	gag Glu	aag Lys 320	960
ttc Phe	aac Asn	aac Asn	acc Thr	acc Thr 325	atc Ile	gtg Val	ttc Phe	aac Asn	cag Gln 330	agc Ser	tcc Ser	ggc Gly	ggc Gly	gac Asp 335	ccc Pro	1008
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ggc Gly	aac Asn 370	atc Ile	act Thr	agt Ser	ggc Gly	acc Thr 375	atc Ile	acc Thr	ctg Leu	ccc Pro	tgc Cys 380	cgc Arg	atc Ile	aag Lys	cag Gln	1152
			atg Met													1200
atc Ile	ggc Gly	ggc Gly	cag Gln	atc Ile 405	aag Lys	tgc Cys	ctg Leu	agc Ser	aac Asn 410	atc Ile	acc Thr	ggc Gly	ctg Leu	ctg Leu 415	ctg Leu	1248
acc Thr	cgc Arg	gac Asp	ggc Gly 420	ggc Gly	agc Ser	gac Asp	aac Asn	tcg Ser 425	agc Ser	agc Ser	ggc Gly	aag Lys	gag Glu 430	att Ile	ttc Phe	1296
			ggc Gly													1344
			gtg Val													1392
			cgc Arg									tag *				1431
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<213> Artificial Sequence

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55
                                          60
Asn Phe Asn Met Gly Lys Asn Asn Met Val Glu Gln Met His Glu Asp
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Ile Ile Ser Leu Trp Asp Gln Ser Leu Lys Pro Cys Val Lys Leu Thr
Pro Leu Cys Val Thr Leu Asn Cys Thr Lys Leu Lys Asn Ser Thr Asp
                              105
Thr Asn Asn Thr Arg Trp Gly Thr Gln Glu Met Lys Asn Cys Ser Phe
                          120
Asn Ile Ser Thr Ser Val Arg Asn Lys Met Lys Arg Glu Tyr Ala Leu
                       135
Phe Tyr Ser Leu Asp Ile Val Pro Ile Asp Asn Asp Asn Thr Ser Tyr
                   150
                                     155
Arg Leu Arg Ser Cys Asn Thr Ser Ile Ile Thr Gln Ala Cys Pro Lys
               165
                                  170
Val Ser Phe Glu Pro Ile Pro Ile His Phe Cys Ala Pro Ala Gly Phe
           180
                             185
Ala Ile Leu Lys Cys Asn Asn Lys Thr Phe Asn Gly Thr Gly Pro Cys
                          200
                                              205
Thr Asn Val Ser Thr Val Gln Cys Thr His Gly Ile Arg Pro Val Val
                      215
                                          220
Ser Thr Gln Leu Leu Leu Asn Gly Ser Leu Ala Glu Glu Val Val
                  230
                                   235
Ile Arg Ser Glu Asn Phe Thr Asn Asn Ala Lys Thr Ile Ile Val Gln
              245
                        250
Leu Asn Glu Ser Val Glu Ile Asn Cys Thr Arg Pro Asn Asn Asn Thr
                           265
Arg Lys Ser Ile His Ile Gly Pro Gly Arg Ala Phe Tyr Thr Thr Gly
                          280
                                            285
Asp Ile Ile Gly Asp Ile Arg Gln Ala His Cys Asn Ile Ser Arg Thr
                      295
Asn Trp Thr Asn Thr Leu Lys Arg Val Ala Glu Lys Leu Arg Glu Lys
                  310
                                     315
Phe Asn Asn Thr Thr Ile Val Phe Asn Gln Ser Ser Gly Gly Asp Pro
              325
                                 330
Glu Ile Val Met His Ser Phe Asn Cys Gly Gly Glu Phe Phe Tyr Cys
                             345
Asn Thr Thr Gln Leu Phe Asn Ser Thr Trp Asn Glu Thr Asn Ser Glu
                          360
Gly Asn Ile Thr Ser Gly Thr Ile Thr Leu Pro Cys Arg Ile Lys Gln
                      375
Ile Ile Asn Met Trp Gln Glu Val Gly Lys Ala Met Tyr Ala Pro Pro
                  390
                                     395
Ile Gly Gly Gln Ile Lys Cys Leu Ser Asn Ile Thr Gly Leu Leu Leu
                                  410
Thr Arg Asp Gly Gly Ser Asp Asn Ser Ser Ser Gly Lys Glu Ile Phe
                             425
Arg Pro Gly Gly Asp Met Arg Asp Asn Trp Arg Ser Glu Leu Tyr
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Lys Tyr Lys Val Val Lys Ile Glu Pro Leu Gly Ile Ala Pro Thr Lys
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Ala Lys Arg Arg Val Val Gln Arg Glu Lys Arg Ala
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	210					215					220					
	ggc Gly															720
	ctg Leu		_			-	-	-	_	_	_		_		-	768
	cat His	-	_	_	_	_	_	_			-	_				816
	ctg Leu															864
	cag Gln 290			-	-		-	_			_		_	_	_	912
	gcc Ala															960
	gtg Val	_	_			_			_					_		1008
	cag Gln	_			_	_	_	-	taa *							1038
	<2 <2	210> 211> 212> 213>	345 PRT	ifici	ial S	Seque	ence									
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1	Thr			5					10					15	_	
	Leu		20					25					30			
	Ala	35	_				40					45				
	50 Gln					55					60					
65	Leu				70					75			_		80	
Val	Pro	Trp	Asn	85 Ala	Ser	Trp	Ser	Asn	90 Lys	Asn	Leu	Ser	Gln	95 Ile	Trp	
Asp	Asn	Met	100 Thr	Trp	Met	Glu	Trp	105 Glu	Arg	Glu	Ile	Ser	110 Asn	Tyr	Thr	
Glu	Ile 130	115 Ile	Tyr	Ser	Leu	Ile 135	120 Glu	Glu	Ser	Gln	Asn 140	125 Gln	Gln	Glu	Lys	

Asn 145	Glu	Leu	Asp	Leu	Leu 150	Gln	Leu	Asp	Lys	Trp 155	Ala	Ser	Leu	Trp	Asn 160
Trp	Phe	Asn	Ile	Thr 165	Asn	Trp	Leu	Trp	Tyr 170	Ile	Lys	Ile	Phe	Ile 175	Met
Ile	Val	Gly	Gly 180	Leu	Ile	Gly	Leu	Arg 185	Ile	Val	Phe	Thr	Val 190	Leu	Ser
Ile	Val	Asn 195	Arg	Val	Arg	Gln	Gly 200	Tyr	Ser	Pro	Leu	Ser 205	Phe	Gln	Thr
Arg	Leu 210	Pro	Val	Pro	Arg	Gly 215	Pro	Asp	Arg	Pro	Glu 220	Gly	Ile	Glu	Glu
Glu 225	Gly	Gly	Glu	Arg	Asp 230	Arg	Asp	Arg	Ser	Thr 235	Arg	Leu	Val	Thr	Gly 240
Phe	Leu	Pro	Leu	Ile 245	Trp	Asp	Asp	Leu	Arg 250	Ser	Leu	Phe	Leu	Phe 255	Ser
Tyr	His	Arg	Leu 260	Arg	Asp	Leu	Leu	Leu 265	Ile	Val	Ala	Arg	Ile 270	Val	Glu
Leu	Leu	Gly 275	Arg	Arg	Gly	Trp	Glu 280	Ile	Leu	Lys	Tyr	Trp 285	Trp	Asn	Leu
Leu	Gln 290	Tyr	Trp	Ser	Gln	Glu 295	Leu	Lys	Asn	Ser	Ala 300	Val	Ser	Leu	Leu
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Val	Val	Gln	Arg	Ile 325	Trp	Arg	Gly	Ile	Leu 330	His	Ile	Pro	Thr	Arg 335	Ile
Arg	Gln	Gly	Phe 340	Glu	Arg	Ala	Leu	Leu 345							